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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Mubarak Make Statements on 2 Nov Meeting *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
PLO Executive Committee Begins Meeting in Cairo *[MENA]* 1
MENA Reports Meeting 1
Al-Zibri Objects to Meeting in Cairo *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Al-Surani on Israeli Position *[MENA]* 2
Palestinian Source Cited *[MENA]* 2
Committee Discusses Intifadah, Strategies *[Baghdad VOP]* 3
Hurani on New Peace Drive *[MENA]* 3
PLO Insists on Naming Delegation *[MENA]* 3
PLO Official Discusses Outcome *[INA]* 4
Dialogue With Israel To Be Held in Italy in Nov *[MENA]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Bush-Gorbachev Meeting 'Annoying' *[Tripoli TV]* 5
Al-Qadhdhafi Holding 'Secret Talks' With U.S.
[London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT 5 Nov] 5
Nicaraguan Official Ends Visit, Departs *[JANA]* 5
Officials Discuss Relations With Morocco *[JANA]* 5
Western Media View 'Islamic Legion' in Chad *[JANA]* 6

Sudan

UN Spokesman on Suspension of Relief Flights *[AFP]* 6
Government Refutes Reports of Coup Attempt *[AFP]* 6
Source Denies Envoy to Ethiopia Recalled *[SUNA]* 7
RCC Official on Ethiopian Tanks at Kurmuk *[MENA]* 7
Al-Bashir Notes Arab Countries' Support *[SUNA]* 7
NSRCC Spokesman Thanks Egypt for Support *[SUNA]* 7
Government Spokesman on U.S. Travel Advisory *[AL-BAYAN 4 Nov]* 7
'Relief Sources' Say Waat Bombed 5 Nov *[AFP]* 8
Al-Bashir Addresses Economic Conference *[SUNA]* 8
Dialogue Conference Statement on 'Aggression' *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
Commercial Protocol With Egypt Implemented *[SUNA]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Amir Congratulates New Lebanese President *[KUNA]* 10
Envoy Calls for 'Urgent' UN Council Session *[KUNA]* 10
Palestinian Anti-Mubarak Statements Criticized *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 3 Nov]* 10

Oman

U.S. Commander Schwarzkopf Arrives 5 Nov *[Muscat Radio]* 10
Deputy Premier Receives GCC Information Ministers *[Muscat Radio]* 11

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Welcomes Lebanese Events *[Riyadh RAdio]* 11
SPA Editor Comments on Anti-Saudi Hostility *[Riyadh Radio]* 11
Attack on Saudi Diplomat in Beirut 'Primitive' *[AL-YAWM 2 Nov]* 12

Yeman Arab Republic

Further Reportage on Unity Committee Meetings 12
Minutes Signed *[Sanaa Radio]* 12
Statement on Meetings Issued *[Sanaa Radio]* 12
President Approves Loan Agreement With Arab Fund *[Sanaa Radio]* 13

IRAQ

UN's Eliasson Makes Statement, Departs 3 Nov *[INA]* 14
Romanian Minister, Delegation Arrive 3 Nov *[INA]* 14
Vietnamese Building Minister Concludes Visit 14
Meets With Hammadi *[INA]* 14
Departs With Delegation *[INA]* 14
Hungarian Finance Minister Attends Baghdad Fair 14
Arrives With Delegation 5 Nov *[INA]* 14
Meets With Planning Minister *[INA]* 14
Hasan Meets FRG, U.S., Romanian Officials *[INA]* 14
Hasan Confers With Chadian, Hungarian Ministers *[INA]* 15
Information Minister Leaves for Muscat Meeting *[INA]* 15
Oil Minister Inaugurates Oil Treatment Station *[INA]* 15
Radio Reports 'Awn's Rejection of Election *[Baghdad Radio]* 15

ISRAEL

Shamir, Peres, Rabin, Arens Discuss Baker Plan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 16
Shamir, Arens Accept Plan 'on Condition' *[Jerusalem TV]* 16
Party Leaders Debating Response to Baker Plan *[Jerusalem TV]* 17
Forum of Four Accepts Baker Plan 'in Principle' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Peres Says Plan Accepted, Guarantees Sought *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Acceptance Resolution Proposed by Forum of Four *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Likud Ministers Endorse Forum of Four Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Inner Cabinet Endorses Amended Baker Plan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 18
Decision To Accept Baker Plan Draws Reaction 19
Peres, Arens, Moda'i Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Peres Reviews 'Next Step' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Levi Warns Against Baker Plan *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
Sharon: Decision 'Disasterous' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Parties React to Resolution *[Jerusalem TV]* 21
Six Requested U.S. 'Guarantees' Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Guarantees Form 'Integral' Part of Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
PLO To Accept Five Points Subject to Promises *[HA'ARETZ 5 Nov]* 22
Basyuni on PLO Role in Delegation to Talks *[HADASHOT 5 Nov]* 22
Approval of 'Improved' Baker Initiative Urged *[HADASHOT 2 Nov]* 23
Meridor Discusses Tanker Affair, Baker Proposal *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Arens Leaves for 'Official' 5-Day Tour of Japan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Ethiopia's Renewal of Relations Welcomed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Exchange of Ambassadors Awaited *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Ethiopian Envoy Arrives *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
FRG Reneges on Offer of Export of Aluminum *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Unemployment Registers 'Slight Drop' in October *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Nov]* 25
Mordekhay Meets With Officials From Nabulus *[AL-NAHAR 3 Nov]* 25
Gazans To Visit Cairo To Discuss Delegation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Navy Stops 'Terrorist Vessel,' Arrests Crew *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Police Consider Buying Small Drone Aircraft *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26

Lahd Returns From Medical Treatment in FRG *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
IDF Begins Investigating UNIFIL Complaint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Statistics on Fatah 'Terrorists' in Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 5 Nov]* 27
Man Killed Attempting To Cross Jordanian Border *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27

JORDAN

King Husayn Discusses Role of Islam in Nation *[Amman TV]* 28
Hasan Defends Record in Aiding Palestinians *[London AL-HAWADITH 27 Oct]* 28
Prince Receives U.S. Commander Schwarzkopf *[Amman Radio]* 30
Cabinet Meets, Approves Agreements, Programs *[Amman Radio]* 30
Al-Qasim Lauds Election of Lebanese President *[Amman TV]* 31
Al-Majali Discusses Elections, Peace Process *[AL-WATAN 31 Oct]* 31
Ibn-Shakir Receives British Defense Official *[PETRA-JNA]* 32
Soviet Envoy on Tarasov Visit, Peace Deadlock *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Nov]* 32

LEBANON

Prime Minister Holds News Conference 3 Nov *[VOL]* 34
'Awn Receives Liberal Party Deputy From Paris *[VOL]* 42
Explosions Near Deputies' Homes in Juniyah 42
Several Casualties Reported *[RFL]* 42
1 Injured in Explosion *[VOL]* 42
Explosions Target Homes, Office *[RFL]* 42
Further on Fire, Explosions *[RFL]* 43
'Awn Issues Decree Dissolving Chamber of Deputies *[VOL]* 43
Al-Huss Says Decree 'Illegal' *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Speaker Al-Husayni Chairs Meeting With Deputies *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Ibrahimi Comments on Meeting *[RFL]* 44
Sham'un on Plan To Reach Understanding in Paris *[VOL]* 44
Deputy Sa'adah Says Al-Husayni Coming to Paris *[AFP]* 44
Al-Husayni Reportedly Arrives *[VOL]* 45
Beirut Reports Attempt To Assassinate 'Awn *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Paper Says Elections May Be Held in Al-Diman *[RFL]* 45
Further on Election Site *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Damascus Radio Comments *[RFL]* 45
Deputies in Paris Appeal to 'Awn, Issue Statement *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Deputies Arrive in Al-Qulay'at; Speaker in Cyprus *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Election Session Scheduled for 4 Nov at 1700 *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Session Postponed *[RFL]* 47
Franjiyah Informs Deputies of Candidacy *[RFL]* 47
Meets Deputies at Airport *[AFP]* 47
Al-Dahir Announces Candidacy *[Voice of National Resistance]* 48
Franjiyah Withdraws From Election *[VOL]* 48
Two More Announce Candidacy *[RFL]* 48
'Awn Rules Out Elections in Al-Qulay'at *[VOL]* 48
Deputies in Paris Agree on Al-Qulay'at Elections *[RFL]* 48
'Awn Says 'Not a Presidential Candidate' *[VOL]* 48
Al-Husayni Says Deputies To Return to Lebanon *[VOL]* 48
Deputies To Organize Elections *[Paris Radio]* 49
Ibrahimi, Ambassadors, Deputies Arrive *[VOL]* 49
Quorum 'Guaranteed' *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Army To Initiate 'Strict' Security Measures *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Sa'adah Announces 'Nomination' to Presidency *[Voice of National Resistance]* 49
Session To Elect Chamber Speaker, Staff Opens *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Speaker, Deputy Speaker Elected *[RFL]* 49
Office Staff Elected *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Mu'awwad Named President *[Beirut Radio]* 50
'Awn Says Presidential Elections 'Null,' 'Void' *[RFL]* 50
AFP Receives Threat Against Mu'awwad *[AFP]* 50
Mu'awwad Views Duties, Ties With Syria *[RFL]* 50

Sami al-Khatib Congratulates Mu'awwad *[RFL]* 51
Al-Huss Congratulates Mu'awwad, Resigns *[Beirut Radio]* 51
Mu'awwad Discusses Reconciliation, Arab Ties *[VOL]* 51
Biography of New President Rene Mu'awwad *[RFL]* 51
Chamber Ratifies Al-Ta'if Accord Document *[Beirut Radio]* 52
Deputies Leave Al-Qulay'at After Election *[RFL]* 52

SYRIA

Al-Asad Congratulates Lebanon's Rene Mu'awwad *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Al-Zu'bi Discusses Lebanon, Economic Matters *[Damascus TV]* 53
Commentary Says 'Awn, Clique Must Be 'Removed' *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Information Minister Receives Iraqi Opposition *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Philippine Ambassador Submits Credentials *[Damascus Radio]* 55

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Murghab District *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Mujahidin Leader Welcomes UN Resolution *[AFP]* 56
Rules Out Dialogue With Najibullah *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
High Command Issues Statement on 'Plunder' *[Kabul Radio]* 56
Soviet Planning Delegation Continues Meetings *[Kabul International]* 57
Meets With Deputy Prime Minister *[BAKHTAR]* 57
Signs Cooperation Protocol *[BAKHTAR]* 57
Holds Talks With Sorabi *[BAKHTAR]* 57

India

Gandhi Issues Platform, Refuses Bofors Questions *[AFP]* 58
Ceremony at Disputed Temple; Troops Deployed *[Delhi Radio]* 58
States Directed To Monitor 'Communal Tensions' *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Former District Judge Shot Dead in Srinagar *[Delhi Radio]* 59

Iran

Information Ministry on CIA 'Agents' Execution *[Tehran TV]* 59
Reportage, Comment on 4 Nov Anniversary 59
Embassy Occupation Viewed *[Tehran TV]* 59
Spy Documents Center Opened *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Exhibit on Failed Rescue Attempt *[IRNA]* 60
Mohtashemi Speaks at Rally *[IRNA]* 61
Tehran TV Notes Mohtashemi Speech 62
Program on 'U.S. Spies' *[Tehran TV]* 62
Commentary on Capture of Embassy *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Occupation, Khomeyni Exile Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Ayatollah Khamene'i Visits Khomeyni Shrine *[Tehran Radio]* 65
President on Reconstruction, 4 Nov Anniversary *[IRNA]* 65
Kho'iniha Praises Majlis Law on U.S. Citizens *[IRNA]* 65
Daily Terms U.S. Decision 'Law of Jungle' *[IRNA]* 66
More on Visit of Soviet Foreign Trade Minister 66
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 66
Further on 4 Nov Meeting *[IRNA]* 66
Agreement Signed on Gas Export *[Tehran TV]* 67
Ambassador to Abu Dhabi Meets With UAE Rulers *[IRNA]* 67
Velayati Leaves for 3-day Visit to Algeria *[IRNA]* 67
UN Special Envoy Eliasson Arrives in Tehran *[IRNA]* 68
Interior Minister Comments on Mid-Term Elections *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Editorial Discusses Need for Differing Views *[ETTELA'AT 24 Oct]* 70

Pakistan

Chinese Leaders, Ershad Congratulate Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Gorbachev Sends Congratulations *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Bhutto Warns Opposition on 'Vindictive Actions' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Willing To End Tension *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
MQM Alleges PPP 'Harassment Campaign' *[AFP]* 71
MQM Leader Plans No Confrontation *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
40 Kasur Lawyers Announce Plan To Join PPP *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Islamic Democratic Alliance Wins Punjab Election *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Sri Lanka

All Party Conference Reports Progress of Talks *[Colombo International]* 72
Official Release on Antisubversive Operations *[LANKAPUVATH]* 72
'Subversives' Kill 9 in Kurunegala District *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73
74 Killed in 'Fierce Gunbattles' in East *[AFP]* 73
Tamil Groups Clash in Ampara; Casualties Noted *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Mubarak Make Statements on 2 Nov Meeting

JN0311194489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and head of the PLO Executive Committee, met yesterday morning with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brothers PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Brother Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Egypt; and Brother Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo. It was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Safi, the president's secretary for information.

During the meeting, the latest political developments in the Arab and international arenas were discussed, particularly those linked to the Palestine question and the latest developments of the valiant intifadah in the occupied territories. These developments were viewed in the context of the escalating Zionist campaigns of starvation and terrorism against the sons of our people. Following the meeting, Brother President Abu-'Ammar and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a news conference, in which Brother Abu-'Ammar said: I am pleased by the blessed meeting yesterday morning with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, in which we discussed a number of issues of the hour, including the situation in the occupied territories; especially the insane escalation by Israeli occupation authorities against our people in Gaza, who are facing real starvation, and also in Bayt Sahur, Nabulus, Jerusalem, and Hebron.

I have thanked the president for the brotherly and committed stand taken by Egypt, which plays this positive and constructive role for the sake of the Palestinian people's cause and the cause of the Arab nation, and for the sake of the first qiblah [Jerusalem] and the third Holy Mosque. On this occasion I wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the initiative which the president made on holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Egypt as a prelude to the international conference to be held later, God willing. We will follow up this initiative, God willing, Mr President.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that there are no differences between the PLO and Egypt. He said: The Palestine question is Egypt's question. Egypt has tackled it since it began and we are still backing the Palestine cause because we consider it a basic cause for us.

Replying to a question about James Baker's recent proposals, President Mubarak said: Egypt does not decide the approval of Baker's proposals. The PLO decides on this because it has the right. If we voice an opinion, we usually discuss it with the PLO and with President Yasir 'Arafat, who then discusses it with his cadres; afterwards he comes to us and we agree so that we can voice such an opinion. Indeed, the approval or lack of approval is up to the PLO, which is the one that makes the decision, and after reaching agreement with its cadres and adopting a position, then we can adopt this position with the United States and Israel.

PLO Executive Committee Begins Meeting in Cairo

NC0411062289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2311 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—The PLO Executive Committee began its meetings under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo this evening.

The committee is discussing Palestinian and Arab developments. It will also assess the current situation of the Palestinian issue.

The committee will discuss the situation of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and the Israeli acts of repression against the Palestinians.

MENA Reports Meeting

NC0411100489 Cairo MENA in English 0710 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] All three Cairo, Arabic morning dailies reported that the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo will be the first to be held in the Egyptian capital since 1977. Diplomatic sources in Cairo are quoted to have said that the decision to hold the meeting in Cairo reflected the extent of coordination and consultations President Mubarak and 'Arafat were holding and the PLO's keenness on coordinating its position with the Arab states concerned with the palestine issue.

The PLO executive committee discussed last night, according AL-AHRAM the developments on the Palestinian front, in the Arab states and internationally in the light of Egypt's recent exchanges with several international parties, notably the United States. The paper said the committee discussed the proposals put forward by United States Secretary of state James Baker and the clarifications requested by the palestinian and israeli sides.

The committee discussed Israel's inhuman actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied lands and its violation of the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy shrines in the occupied palestinian lands. [passage omitted]

Al-Zibri Objects to Meeting in Cairo

JN0411114689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1055 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Reacting to radio reports on a PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo, Comrade Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], member of the PLO Executive

Committee and deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has made the following statement:

1. In my capacity as a PLO Executive Committee member, I have no knowledge of an invitation for an Executive Committee meeting in Cairo, and I will not participate in such a meeting.

2. I do not see any reason for a meeting in Cairo by the Executive Committee or any other Palestinian body as long as the Egyptian regime continues to adhere to Camp David and to relations with the Zionist entity and the Israeli Embassy in Egypt despite all the Palestinian people's pain.

3. I do not know the circumstances or reasons for the Cairo meeting, but I warn that there are attempts to place the PLO under the Egyptian trusteeship for political reasons in agreement with the U.S. Administration's wishes and orientations.

[Signed] Abu-'Ali Mustafa, member of the PLO Executive Committe,
4 November 1989

Al-Surani on Israeli Position

NC0411114089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that the PLO Executive Committee's meetings, which opened in Cairo last night, discussed at length and with special emphasis the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied land, ways to enhance and escalate it, and means of confronting the Israeli occupation authorities' acts of famishing and besieging the Palestinian citizens in the occupied land.

The source said in its meetings at noon today and this evening the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the standing of the Palestinian issue in the Arab and international arenas and the peace move, as well as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to resolve the Palestinian issue.

The source disclosed that 12 of the 15 members of the Executive Committee attended the meetings and noted that the remaining 3 were absent because they have been tasked with missions abroad by the Palestinian leadership.

Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has affirmed that Israel is still obstructing any peace move.

Al-Surani commented on the Israeli quadripartite inner ministerial meeting's acceptance of the Baker plan and their announcement that Israel will ask for sufficient guarantees from Washington so that Israel will not be forced into a dialogue with the PLO. He asked: When Israel makes this request, with whom will it negotiate? Will it negotiate with itself to resolve a domestic problem?

He asserted that the problem is between the Palestinian people and Israel and that the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative is the PLO.

He noted that Israel has repeatedly tried various means to find a single Palestinian who would negotiate with it, but it failed in all its attempts.

Palestinian Source Cited

NC0411115689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has disclosed that the PLO Executive Committee emphasized during its discussions in its meetings, which began last night, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's 5-point proposal and the amendments to it.

In an exlusive statement to MENA, the source said that these amendments, which were handed to the PLO on Thursday, give Israel the right to confine the Palestinian-Israei dialogue to merely technical matters and makes it seem as if Israel is having a dialogue with itself.

The source added: The bases, with which we emerged from the recent PLO Central Council meeting in Baghdad can alone constitute a foundation for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and a preliminary step toward convening an inernational conference.

It is noteworthy that these bases are:
—The PLO is the only party that has the right to form a Palestinian delegation to the dialogue;
—The agenda must be open and without preconditions; and
—The Palestinian side, which adheres to the Palestinian initiative, based on international legitimacy, demands that this meeting be a preliminary dialogue between the two parties and a step toward convening an international peace conference.

The source affirmed the PLO's support for French President Francois Mitterrand's recent statements on the Palestinian issue. The source disclosed that contacts are now under way between Palestinian and French delegations to arrange for a high-level meeting between the two sides.

On the significance of the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Cairo, the Palestinian source stressed Egypt's commitment, as an Arab state, to the resolutions of the Arab summit conference, which was held in Casablanca in May, and to its support for the Palestinian cause.

The source noted that the presence of 12 out of the 15 members of the Executive Committee makes the meeting legal and remarked that the Executive Committee had always held sessions with a number of its members absent.

Today President Husni Mubareak is expected to receive the PLO Executive Committee members now meeting in Cairo.

Committee Discusses Intifadah, Strategies

JN0511205989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1924 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee ended its meetings in Cairo last night. During the meetings, chaired by brother President leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the committee discussed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the mounting Israeli acts of terrorism and oppression and the heroic steadfastness by the Palestinian masses everywhere.

The Executive Committee made a number of decisions and steps, including moves to get the Security Council condemn Israel's terrorism and criminal schemes. The latest political moves were also discussed, and the committee underlined the latest resolutions and inclinations of the PLO Central Council concerning the plan of Palestinian political action. The committee stressed that the PLO, through these inclinations, firmly adheres to the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of the Palestine National Councl and the Casablanca Arab summit. The committee decided to embark on comprehensive political moves on the Arab and international levels to counter all schemes and plots aimed at encroaching upon the singularity of Palestinian representation. It also stressed the need for Arab countries and friendly European countries to intensify efforts to convene the international peace conference.

The Executive Committee also made a number of important organizational and administrative decisions to support and back the struggle of our valiant people and their blessed intifadah inside the occupied territories. The committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to the president, Government, and people of Egypt for their support for the Palestinian cause and for the efforts they are making to regain the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to self-determination.

Hurani on New Peace Drive

NC0511113689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—At the close of its meetings early today the PLO Executive Committee decided to form a committee to be chosen from the PLO Central Committee for drawing up a plan for a drive in Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Arab states to reactivate and propel the Middle East peace process.

In a statement to MENA, PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani said that the Palestinian leadership has formulated a unified stand on the drive to propel the peace process, on the subject of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and on the initiatives undertaken to solve the issue.

Hurani stressed that the intifadah is continuing and that particular attention was paid to the events in Bayt Sahur, which abstained from paying taxes to the occupation authorities. The PLO Executive Committee adopted the necessary decisions to greet and salute the steadfastness of Bayt Sahur and to support and compensate its inhabitants for their pillaged property.

PLO Executive Comittee Member Jamal al-Surani said that the PLO Executive Committee held an in-depth discussion on the ways to activate international and Arab opinion to end the current stalemate brought about by Israeli intransigence and the U.S. stand, which is subservient to Israeli demands.

Al-Surani said that several resolutions have been adopted to support and escalate the intifadah against the Israeli occupation and to make it stand fast against the barbaric acts of the occupation authorities.

Al-Surani appealed to the Arab states to promptly pay the funds they owe in accordance with the Algiers summit resolutions on supporting the intifadah, saying that only Saudi Arabia and Iraq have yet done so.

PLO Insists on Naming Delegation

NC0511125189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that during its meetings in Cairo the PLO Executive Committee discussed the developments in the ongoing dialogue between the United States and Israel, adding that the committee was studying these developments in accordance with accurate information it was receiving at first hand from various channels. These include Israeli channels, especially regarding the 5-point plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that the PLO Executive Committee discussions were based on the principles of a dialogue with Israel as approved by the PLO Central Council. Hence, the PLO Executive Committee has entered the stage of formulating the necessary policies, taking into consideration that the Israeli Cabinet may accept the Baker proposals.

Kamal said that the PLO Executive Committee adopted a line from which it would not deviate, namely that the PLO is the be-all and end-all party responsible for naming and forming the Palestinian delegation in constant coordination with the Egyptian leadership and because it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestiniasn people, as approved by the Arab summits.

Kamal said that the supreme interest of the Palestinian people would be placed above any consideration because the current stage is very delicate and requires action in accordance with the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, which considered the PLO Executive Committee a provisional government.

Kamal said that while discussing all these developments, the PLO Executive Committee did not forget the Palestinian intifadah and the need to support it and escalate it by various means. The PLO Executive Committee also

considers its meeting in Cairo an affirmation of the brotherly relations between the Egyptian and Palestinian people and between their leadership and appreciates President Mubarak's key and vanguard role in supporting our people's struggle to regain their national rights.

PLO Official Discusses Outcome

JN0511180589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee meetings under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat ended here at dawn today. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Cairo, Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, said that the Executive Committee discussed the details of the proposals made by the various sides concerning the Palestinian people's cause, bringing about peace in the Middle East, and the results of the PLO Central Council's recent meetings in Baghdad.

He pointed out that the results of the discussions emphasize that convening an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO and the permanent Security Council member states, represents the best formula for dealing with the various problems and differernces linked with the Palestine question.

Muhammad Subayh also said that the PLO Executive Committee has adopted the basis of dialogue approved by the PLO Central Council in Baghdad—a basis which stresses the PLO's right to form the Palestinian delegation to any dialogue, to freely select the members of the delegation, and not to abide by any preconditions in any dialogue. He also stressed that the agenda of the meetings should be open and should allow the discussion of any subject on the Palestine question and the course of peace in the Middle East.

He added that the Executive Committee also affirmed its commitment to the basis of the Palestinian peace initiative, which was announced in Algiers along with the results of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's activities abroad.

Dialogue With Israel To Be Held in Italy in Nov

NC0411123289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—A Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is to be held in Milan, Italy, from 16 to 18 November. A number of Palestinian figures from the PLO and the occupied territories as well as Israeli Knesset members and a number of Jewish personalities in Europe will participate in the dialogue.

David Susskind, honorary chairman of the Belgian Jewish secular center, who was recently in Cairo at an invitation from Egyptian officials, said in a statement to MENA that the meeting, organized by the center for the sake of peace in the Middle East, will be sponsored by the European Parliament and the Italian Foreign Ministry. He disclosed that 15 figures from Israel, including ('Uzi Bar'am), former secretary general of the Labor Party; Abba Eban; Aharon Yarev; Solameth Alomi; and Ya'ir Tsaban will take part in the meeting.

Representing the PLO in this meeting will be Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Mahmud Darwish, members of the PLO Executive Committee. Also taking part from the occupied territories will be Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Jerusalem-based Arab center of studies; Hanna Sanurah, chief editor of the Jerusalem-based AL-FAJR newspaper; Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, doyen of lawyers in the Gaza Strip; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; writer Ziyad Abu-Ziyad; and Radwan Abu- 'Ayyash, doyen of West Bank journalists.

Susskind added that Richard Murphy, former U.S. assistant secretary of state; (Karnez Urton), official in charge of the Soviet foreign ministry's foreign relations; and Gerald Kaufman, foreign minister in the British shadow cabinet; representatives of the Italian, French, and Netherland Governments, as well as a number of Jewish organizations in the European countries will also participate in the meeting.

Susskind said: As Jews in the diaspora, we have to say to the Israelis that it is not reasonable to establish justice on only one side. We also say to the Israelis that the Palestinians have the same right to live within a state. He pointed out that the Israelis and Palestinians must sit together and discuss all matters without preconditions in order to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Bush-Gorbachev Meeting 'Annoying'

LD0311211189 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Regarding the expected meeting between U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev at the beginning of December in the Mediterranean Sea, the brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA in which he said:

The meeting, in the form that has been announced, will be annoying to the people of the Mediterranean Sea. Holding the meeting on a naval vessel is an ugly affair and reminds us of world war leaders' meetings. In addition, the meeting has no civilized appearance and is contrary to the nature of the epoch. It may also be interpreted as a kind of naval muscle-flexing in the Mediterranean.

The leader said that we support a meeting between the leaders of the superpowers, but object to the venue, which generates revulsion.

Al-Qadhdhafi Holding 'Secret Talks' With U.S.

LD0511112189 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 5 Nov 89 p 1

[By David Blundy in Washington: "Al-Qadhdhafi in Secret Talks With U.S."]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is negotiating secretly with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader whom the Americans tried to kill only three years ago in a bombing raid. Senior U.S. diplomatic sources say the talks began recently after "feelers" from Al-Qadhdhafi indicating he wanted warmer relations with Washington.

The sources say the U.S., which no longer has an embassy in Tripoli, has reacted to Al-Qadhdhafi's approach through the Belgian and Dutch Governments, who have maintained diplomatic links there.

They believe this move is part of an attempt to end his country's isolation and form closer links with both the West and his Arab neighbours.

The U.S. has presented Al-Qadhdhafi with a list of demands which includes stipulations that he must cut his links with terrorist groups and expel the Abu-Nidal organisation from Libya. The group's leader, Sabri al-Banna, lives in a villa in Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

Al-Qadhdhafi has offered to stop his funding, training, and support of terrorist groups, something he has been doing for at least a decade but which he has only just publicly admitted.

The U.S. has also demanded that Al-Qadhdhafi stop his attempts to produce chemical weapons at a plant in Rabta, near Tripoli. US officials did not say whether Libya's funding and arming of the IRA was specifically mentioned in its demands or broadly included in its call for a general ban on Libyan support for terrorist groups.

The secret talks come as Libya is attempting to build a long-range missile with technical help from West German companies, as *The Sunday Correspondent* revealed recently.

Al-Qadhdhafi was considered by the United States to be the world's main financier and exponent of terrorism. President Reagan ordered bombing raids on Tripoli and Banghazi in 1986 as a reprisal for the attack on U.S. servicemen in a discotheque in West Berlin, for which the U.S. held Libya responsible.

The U.S. has also made a secret approach to president Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and demanded that he expel Ahmad Jibril and his PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] group, prime suspects for the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie last December, from Syria and the territory it controls in the al-Biqa' Valley area of Lebanon.

Officials in Washington said the U.S. had also asked the Soviet Union to put pressure on Libya and Syria to stop their involvement in terrorism. The Soviet Union has been a key ally and military supplier of both nations. Soviet support for Libya has appeared to be on the wane, although it has supplied new radar equipment to Al-Qadhdhafi over the past few months.

Nicaraguan Official Ends Visit, Departs

LD0311195289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Nov (JANA)—Henry Hernandez Ruiz, member of the Nicaraguan revolutionary leadership and minister of cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this afternoon, thus concluding his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, which lasted several days.

Officials Discuss Relations With Morocco

LD0511221489 Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Rabat, Al Harth [November] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major al-Khuwaylidi al Humaydi met this morning with the Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

The two-hour meeting discussed and reviewed the major development in bilateral relations between the Arab people within the two sisterly countries and ways and means to consolidate and enhance them in a manner to realise integrations in all fields.

Also, the two sides reviewed a number of national and international issues of common interest and exchanged viewpoints regarding them.

Present at the meeting were the Assistant Interior Minister Abd-al-Hafid Ben Hashem, the Moroccan Ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah Moulay Driss al-Alaoui, the

delegate of Great Jamahiriyah to the general secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union and the charge d'affairs of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to sisterly Morocco.

Western Media View 'Islamic Legion' in Chad

LD0411234889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1426 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli 4 Nov—JANA African affairs section noticed that Western media have unexpectedly begun to talk about something they have called the Islamic legion working in Chad. These media have linked the Great Jamahiriyah's name with that mythical name.

One of the editors of that section wrote a commentary on that trend [words indistinct] tension in Africa, because that would enable them to pass their schemes which have negative effects on the future of Africa and its peoples.

The editor explained that the press machinery's exploitation of the Chadian problem and extensive fanning of it may come within the core of the endeavors which imperialist strategy aims to achieve, and that implicating the Great Jamahiriyah's name in Chadian internal affairs constitutes a devious practice by those who want to tear Africa, particularly Chad, apart.

The JANA African affairs editor warned the Chadian people to be cautious and not to get dragged in behind Western trumpets. He said that it is in the interest of the Chadian and Libyan Arab peoples to be alert to the foreign attempts to divide them without consideration for their particular interests or that of Africa as a whole.

Sudan

UN Spokesman on Suspension of Relief Flights

AB0311164389 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 3 (AFP)—Relief flights into south Sudan from Kenya and Uganda have been suspended on the order of the Sudanese Government, a UN spokesman said here Friday.

The order follows the bombing Tuesday by unidentified planes of the town of Yirol in Al-Buhayrat Province, which is under the control of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The Khartoum government said the suspension would last until it completed its investigation of the Yirol bombing, in which five civilians were killed and six wounded, the UN spokesman said.

The SPLA said Thursday that it could not positively identify the planes which bombed Yirol but charged they were either from the Sudan Air Force or its allies.

The order, which specified that it applied to "non-commercial passenger flights," will halt flights under the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan, mounted by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UF World Food Program (WFP).

It will also apply to relief flights by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), which supplies Yirol and the Lutheran World Federation.

UNICEF, which resumed flights Thursday after a brief suspension following the bombing, had already decided to suspend flights after calling back two planes in mid-flight Thursday.

This followed anti-aircraft fire from the SPLA-held town of Kapoeta in eastern Equatoria, after a reported sighting of a Soviet Mig warplane at high attitude over the town.

Fighting between the government and SPLA rebels resumed in Sudan last month breaking a six-month cease-fire.

A spokesman for UNICEF said the suspension would cause no major problem if it did not last longer than one week.

Operation Lifeline Sudan, which began last April 1, is about to enter a second phase having delivered 104,000 tonnes of relief food up until October 31 to avert a threatened famine.

Some food was still being delivered but the second phase, for which donor support will shortly be sought, aims to concentrate on help for the war displaced to allow them to become more self-sufficient.

The UN hopes to get agricultural tools into south Sudan by the end of December and seeds and fertilizers by the end of March.

Government Refutes Reports of Coup Attempt

AB0411143289 Paris AFP in French 1336 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (AFP)—The Sudanese Government today categorically denied reports of a coup attempt by retired senior officers against the ruling junta in Khartoum, an official source announced. According to 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of information and culture and also official spokesman for the government, these reports are "false and completely groundless." These rumors "were essentially aimed at jeopardizing the Sudanese efforts toward bringing peace" to the country, Mr Shummu added.

The Qatari daily AL-RAYA, quoting military sources in Sudan, reported on Thursday [2 November] that seven retired officers, who had tried to overthrow General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir government, had been arrested.

Source Denies Envoy to Ethiopia Recalled

EA0411195189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 4 (SUNA)—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry has denied a news report that Sudan has recalled its ambassador to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The source told SUNA that the Sudanese ambassador to Addis Ababa was in Sudan since almost two months due to his term of service expiry, adding that a new ambassador is in the process of being nominated for Addis Ababa. The source said this will follow the normal diplomatic procedures and that it has nothing to do with the recent events in the south-east of the country.

The source has meanwhile told SUNA that the Foreign Ministry has informed Arab ambassadors accredited to the Sudan on the recent developments in the country and the aggression on the border town of Kurmuk, south-east of the country, by the rebel movement. The source said the ambassadors have been told to convey to their governments the recent events and Sudan's position towards them.

RCC Official on Ethiopian Tanks at Kurmuk

NC0411143389 Cairo MENA in English 1312 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 5 (MENA)—Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih deputy head of the revolution salvation council, [Revolution Command Council for National Salvation] today said that the Ethiopian tanks took part in the recent attack launched on the Kurmuk city lying on the Ethiopian-Sudanese border.

He said that the Ethiopian forces later withdrew from the area, adding that this attack was considered a conspiracy against Sudan.

In press reports today Muhammad Salih said the Sudanese forces are capable of retrieving the posts they withdrew from.

He added that Sudan will stage a drive in the Arab countries to make explanation on this attack.

Al-Bashir Notes Arab Countries' Support

EA0311212689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 3 (SUNA)—Arab countries and the international community are supporting Sudan and its sustained efforts for achieving peace in the south, stated leader of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, NSRC, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. Al-Bashir told the daily "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" issued here today that Sudan, following the capture of Kurmuk bordering town by the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], led a wide diplomatic move to explain the situation in Sudan. Some delegations were sent to Arab countries while others will be batched [as received] to the neighboring African countries to brief the African leaders on the security situation, al-Bashir added.

[Khartoum SUNA in French at 1530 GMT on 3 November reports Al-Bashir's remarks to AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH and adds: "That Arab and friendly countries have condemned the shelling of the southeastern border town of Kurmuk by the rebel movement of John Garang. Meanwhile, Gen al-Bashir reaffirmed the determination of the NSRCC to pursue its efforts to achieve peace. In this respect, he indicated that Sudanese delegations were going to make visits abroad in order to clarify the peace process and developments in the Sudan. The NSRCC chairman indicated that the minister of foreign affairs had informed ambassadors accredited in Khartoum about the efforts of the revolution to restore peace."]

NSRCC Spokesman Thanks Egypt for Support

EA0311103589 Khartoum SUNA in French 0913 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Medani, 2 Nov, (SUNA)—Colonel Sulayman, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member, has paid tribute to the Egyptian position of supporting Sudan to confront the attack on the town of Kurmuk (south of the country), near its border with Ethiopia [words indistinct].

Col Sulayman, who is currently on a visit in the province [words indistinct] contacts with neighboring countries in favor of peace in the Sudan.

Meanwhile, Col Sulayman, who is the spokesman of the NSRCC, has asserted that the Sudanese Armed Forces are capable of defending the country's integrity and unity. He also pledged the NSRCC's continued efforts toward the realization of a just peace.

Finally, Col Sulayman has urged John Garang's rebel movement to join in the efforts for the sake of stability and security in the country.

Government Spokesman on U.S. Travel Advisory

JN0511193189 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 4 Nov 89 pp 1, 17

[By Yusuf al-Shanbali in Khartoum]

[Excerpt] 'Ali Shummu, Sudanese culture and information minister and government spokesman, has stated there were no justifications for the U.S. statement issued the day before yesterday in which the United States warned its subjects against traveling to Sudan.

Shummu told AL-BAYAN that the issuance of this statement at this particular time negates all the justifications it mentioned because Sudan has never witnessed in its recent past a stability like the one it enjoys now.

The minister added: The U.S. statement talked about riots that might take place in the Sudanese capital, while all indications show that normal crimes have disappeared from Khartoum.

Shummu said that the U.S. statement gives the impression that the country is in a state of war and this will adversely affect the peace process, to which the government is giving its full attention.

The Sudanese minister expressed surprise at the fact that the statement was issued "by a friendly country with which we have long-established and strong relations." He said: We hope we will receive an appropriate explanation for this statement from the U.S. Government. [passage omitted]

'Relief Sources' Say Waat Bombed 5 Nov

AB0611093989 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 6 (AFP)—Two warplanes believed to belong to the Sudanese Air Force Sunday bombed the southern town of Waat, held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), but caused no injuries, relief sources confirmed here.

An official of the United Nations' Lifeline Sudan told AFP Monday that his organisation which has been taking relief food into the war-ravaged southern Sudan, was to complain to the Khartoum government.

The attack on Waat comes less than a week after another rebel-held town, Yirol, was bombed by two planes. Five people were killed and six injured in that attack.

Al-Bashir Addresses Economic Conference

EA0111105089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 31 (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has affirmed the revolution's concern with the economic reform to rescue the country from the deterioration which had prevailed in it during the past period.

Addressing the opening session of the "Economic Conference for National Salvation" at the Friendship Hall here yesterday, Gen al-Bashir said preparations for the conference had started earlier by taking strict measures against corruption, black marketeers, and currency dealers.

He told the 600-member conference, who include government officials, economic experts, university lecturers, and national figures, to concentrate on the realisation of food security and balanced development by giving special concern with the least development areas in the country, particularly the south. He added that the conference should also concentrate on the effect of government subsidies on the budget, revival of conditions at public corporations, the role of the banking sector, and the promotion of cooperation between Sudan and the international community.

Gen al-Bashir pointed out that the process of reconstruction in the country requires the enlightenment of citizens on the economic situation, the best utilisation of local energies, preservation of social security through the just distribution of the national wealth. This should be realised by working out short-term programmes that enable us to attain development, Gen al-Bashir said.

He noted that the National Salvation Revolution erupted as a result of the severe economic deterioration, corruption and abuse of public funds and its irrational use which had been prevailing in Sudan during the partisan era. He said the deterioration was represented in a sharp drop in production in addition to a sharp deficit in the foreign budget, a matter that led to the drop of exports and the increase of the imports, debts, expansion in public expenditure and borrowing from the banking system. He said the inflation rate had reached 8 percent, besides the deterioration of infrastructures, services, lack of essential commodities, noting that the first statement of the revolution and his address to the first meeting of the cabinet had included these issues.

Member of the Revolution Command Council and the chairman of the Economic Committee, Col Salah al-Din al-Karrar, who also addressed the session, tackled the dimensions of the economic difficulties facing the country.

The session was attended by senior government officials, ministers, and ambassadors. The conference will continue sessions until 21st November.

Dialogue Conference Statement on 'Aggression'

EA0311093289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The national peace dialogue conference has held an emergency session at the Friendship Hall. The session was chaired by Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and chairman of the conference steering committee. Staff Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi, spokesman for the conference, said after today's session that the session had been held in implementation of resolutions adopted by the joint session of the NSRCC and the Council of Ministers, which outlined practical steps and procedures to implement those steps. The statement praised the speed with which the conference arrived at practical recommendations.

The statement expressed the conference's appreciation of the efforts being made by the Armed Forces to protect the homeland. It also praised their restraint in maintaining the declared cease-fire. The conference expressed deep regret over the acts of aggression perpetrated at a time when Sudan was reaching agreement on urgent solutions to disputed issues within the homeland. The

statement expressed the conference's extreme regret over the involvement of some foreign forces in providing support for acts of aggression aimed at aborting the results achieved by the conference and diverting attention away from those results. The conference called on all peace-loving forces to support the peace efforts in Sudan. The statement stressed that dialogue constituted the sole path toward peace.

Commercial Protocol With Egypt Implemented

EA0111081189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 29 (SUNA)—The implementation of the commercial protocol between Sudan and Egypt has started, announced minister of cooperation and supply Dr Faruq al-Bushrah yesterday. The minister said in a press statement that the registered exported [words indistinct] commodities included in the protocol have to apply for this purpose. The export items include raw hides, half-tanned raw hides, camels, living and slaughtered cattle, watermelon seeds, salted fish, seeds, karkadi, spices, manufactured fodders, medical herbs and seeds.

On the other hand, the delegation of the public sector's companies (Coptrade, Khartoum for Trade and the Military Corporation) have returned from Cairo where it held meetings with the Egyptian public sector companies which are involved in importation of Sudanese commodities.

Kuwait

Amir Congratulates New Lebanese President

LD0611120789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0855 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 6 (KUNA)—His Highness the amir Monday sent a cable of congratulations to President Rene Mu'awwad on the occasion of his election as a president of Lebanon.

Envoy Calls for 'Urgent' UN Council Session

LD0411233789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1254 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 4 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Al-Sabah al-Ahmad Saturday affirmed that the Kuwaiti permanent representative to the U.N. Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu al- Hasan's request for an urgent Security Council session was on behalf of the Arab group, in his capacity as its current chairman.

Shaykh al-Sabah told reporters that the Security Council would discuss the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian lands.

He added that the international body would also look into the Israeli repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens and the Israeli 45-day old siege of Beit Sahur and other Palestinian villages in the occupied lands.

The security council is slated to meet Monday evening or Tuesday morning to discuss an Arab draft resolution condemning the Israeli practices.

Shaykh Sabah said "we are awaiting the outcome of the Council's meeting...."

Palestinian Anti-Mubarak Statements Criticized

JN0411191289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Nov 89 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Egyptian Purity!"]

[Text] Does the mudslinging by certain Palestinian figures at President Husni Mubarak and their threats on his life amount to a coordinated effort? Or is it a one-time tactic toward a specific end?

Either way, such irresponsible statements need not have come from a Palestinian official, whatever his standing and position. Egypt and its president do not need a certificate to prove that identify more closely with the Palestinian question than the Palestinians themselves. Surely 40 years of contributions to the Palestinian cause have earned Egypt the right to advise the Palestinians on how to handle their case and steer clear of maneuvers by [Arab] regimes and international intrigue.

President Mubarak has stated that the right to accept or reject whatever touches on the Palestinian cause is the PLO's alone. He has thus emphasized that Egypt's role does not go beyond that of an exponent of the official line of the PLO, which has been given a vote of confidence by the Palestinian people who invested the organization with the power to speak on their behalf.

Hence, it is strange that such threats should have been issued against an Arab leader who has given the Palestinian cause preference over all Egyptian concerns, and, since assuming office, made it a focus of his moves and contacts. And yet, for all these sacrifices, threats are made, false charges are leveled, and fabricated statements are ascribed to the leader of the largest Arab country.

We would ask such [Palestinian] leaders whether they have it in them to do for the Palestinian cause what Egypt under Mubarak has.

No government or organization has done anything to match President Mubarak's endeavors in terms of standing up to Israeli ambitions or presenting the Palestinian cause in all its aspects—political, humanitarian, and historical. It is as an Egyptian concern that President Mubarak approaches the Palestinian cause. The Egyptian leader's style derives from his conviction that the tribulations of the Palestinian people ought to be the axis around which all Arab and international efforts must revolve. That much President Mubarak has done, and successfully. For our part, we would ask the Palestinians, whose case has over the past 40 years been outside the limelight of the international stage, whether it was in their power to advance their cause while Israel made political and military moves the world over backed by the Americans and Western public opinion?!

Only since the intifadah and since President Mubarak embraced the PLO program has the Palestinian cause assumed a global dimension. Previously, the Palestinian cause had been lost in the maze of inter-Arab rivalries and differences and maneuvers. It was the Palestinians who suffered the most from these maneuvers and intrigues.

Nonetheless, someone stands up to deny Egypt's efforts and level wrongful accusations against President Mubarak, who, far from paying attention, exhorted the Palestinians to speak with one voice and get their act together: Their enemy is lurking in the shadows and biding its time to pounce on their intifadah.

President Mubarak conducts himself in the spirit of Egypt's purity and pan-Arab orientation.

Oman

U.S. Commander Schwarzkopf Arrives 5 Nov

JN0511134889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Command, arrived in the country at noon today on a visit to Oman which will last for several days. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Receives GCC Information Ministers

JN0511135889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahd Ibn-Mahmud Al Bu-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs and chairman of the Higher Committee for Conferences, received at his office today their highnesses and excellencies the information ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states who are taking part in the 13th conference of the GCC information ministers, currently convening in Muscat. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Welcomes Lebanese Events

LD0511191489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Statement by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, on behalf of the Greater Arab Tripartite Committee, issued on 5 November; place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] I have received with utmost satisfaction the news about the outcome of the session held by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies this afternoon which endorsed the national accord document and elected a new president to the Lebanese Republic and a speaker to the Chamber of Deputies. It pleases me to express, on behalf of my brothers His Majesty King Hassan II, the sovereign of the Moroccan Kingdom, and His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid, president of the Democratic Republic of Algeria, best wishes for the fraternal Lebanese people on the occasion of this great historic achievement which opens the page of peace, harmony, and stability in fraternal Lebanon. We also hail the significant role undertaken by the Lebanese deputies in shouldering their historic responsibilities and their self-denial in discharging their national duty; expressing most profoundly the trust put in them by the Lebanese people as their legitimate representatives.

It pleases us to announce our total support to His Excellency President-Elect Rene Mu'awwad and to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. And we implore the Lebanese people, all individuals, factions, and armed forces to rally around His Excellency the president and to stand in a single strong cohesive line for the sake of Lebanon and its unity.

We also implore the international community, as a whole, to offer its utmost in support of Lebanon and to stand by its side at this significant turning point in its history, extending every possible assistance to help it in protecting its unity, independence, and sovereignty and in ensuring its rebuilding, well-being, and prosperity to regain its proper status within the Arab family and its active role within the international community.

SPA Editor Comments on Anti-Saudi Hostility

LD0311224689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpts] In a commentary on the assassination of Saudi citizen Muhammad Ali al-Marzuqi in Beirut the day before yesterday, Wednesday [1 November] at the hands of treachery and criminality, the Saudi Press Agency political editor writes:

Yet again we address the conscience of the Lebanese people, with all their various religious sects and political trends. We ask: Why is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular the target of [words indistinct] elements which have practised terrorism against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's embassy and its diplomatic and other staff? [passage omitted]

Despite our appreciation and gratitude for all the statements, announcements, and messages of condemnation and denunciation of the incidents, which are appreciated by the king, the government, and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we still ask: Why do these repeated attacks [words indistinct] occur in Lebanon, the people of which we wish amity, good, and love and do our utmost to support them faithfully and sincerely, driven by our fraternal duty which is dictated by the intermingling of blood and [word indistinct] and common destiny? [passage omitted]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to reaffirm that it rejects categorically all forms of (?pressure), terrorism, and extortion and [word indistinct] it will not, under any circumstances, submit to this kind of terrorist practices. We are well aware who benefits from them, who moves the [word indistinct] and who plan, follow, and execute. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is aware of all this and more. It will persist in its path, together with its brothers in the Arab countries, for the reestablishment of security and stability in Lebanon and of national unity for its people whose representative chose freely and willingly their national accord document and [words indistinct] during their recent meeting in al-Ta'if.

Again we address the Lebanese conscience to ask about the reasons for the hostile statements which are being made by some propagandists against the kingdom, its sovereignty, and its policy, defending non-Arab regimes which have kindled the fires of sedition in fraternal Arab Lebanon. Would it not have been more appropriate for those propagandists who claim to belong to Lebanon to expend their efforts in defending their homeland while it is going through the most severe ordeal experienced by Lebanon since its independence? [passage omitted]

Despite our respect for thinkers and writers in fraternal Lebanon, we ask these questions. This is not because we are waiting for answers to them. We already know those who are responsible for the hostile practices and campaigns, and we are aware of their motives and [word indistinct]. However, as we said at the beginning of this brief commentary, we want to submit these questions to

the Lebanese alert and aware conscience, which we are hoping will find find a way to control the balance, to correct the situation, and to resolve matters.

Attack on Saudi Diplomat in Beirut 'Primitive'

JN0411150789 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Editorial: "What Do the Cowardly Criminals Want?"]

[Text] Terrorism is a method rejected by all societies, because it is a brutal way to express rancor. This method shows that perpetrators of terrorist acts do not have the most basic human sentiments. It also shows that these perpetrators lack the ability to act in a civilized manner with all parties. Besides, this method is reminiscent of man's savage and primitive nature. Moreover, this method turns the community into a jungle in which there is no room for anything but revenge, treachery, and savagery.

The attack on the Saudi national working with the Saudi Embassy in Lebanon is an attack of this nature. It is an attack precipitated by the black rancor embedded within the chests of the enemies of this homeland. This rancor prompted these enemies to attack Saudi expatriates, particularly considering that they failed to undermine the country's security. These enemies were driven by the mistaken belief that such black rancor might dissuade the Kingdom from shouldering its historic responsibilities within the Arab family and international community.

Those whose hands have been defiled by the perpetration of terrorist crimes are making common cause with the enemies of this nation. The attack on an employee who is over 70 years old is a clear indication showing the magnitude of the rancor and hatred embedded within the hearts of the criminals who undertook this heinous act. It also shows the destructive elements dwelling within their lowly bosoms—the destructive elements which have destroyed all virtue and humaneness. These destructive elements have created in the hearts of these criminals fertile ground for savagery and rancor, where no distinction is made between good and evil or right and wrong. This has made it easy for them to carry out their crimes without any sense of responsibility or any pangs of remorse.

What do these criminals want from the Kingdom, which has done its utmost to protect Islamic holy sites, safeguard Islamic holy shrines, and ensure the safety of pilgrims?

What do these criminals want from the Kingdom, which has done its best to establish peace in Lebanon; save it from its grinding crisis; and restore its freedom, security, and sovereignty?

What do these criminals want from the Kingdom which has always been keen on closing Arab and Islamic ranks, which has made numerous efforts to achieve Arab and Islamic solidarity on all levels, and which has always sought to promote the values of goodness and cooperation among fraternal and friendly states?

Such acts by these cowardly criminals cannot undermine the Kingdom's endeavors to realize justice, achieve peace, and serve Islam and Muslims. However, it goes without saying that such acts harm their perpetrators and those behind them.

Yeman Arab Republic

Further Reportage on Unity Committee Meetings

Minutes Signed

JN0311205889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The committee of the unified political organization, which held its first session in the city of Ta'izz from 31 October to 3 November, signed the minutes of the meetings of the session in the city of Ta'izz today. They were signed for the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], the northern part of the homeland, by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the southern part of the homeland, by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee. The signing ceremony was attended by the members of the two delegations to the committee and a number of officials.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and head of the southern part of the homeland's delegation to the committee of the unified political organization, and the members of the southern part's delegation to the committee left Ta'izz for Aden today after a visit to the northern part of the homeland. During the visit they attended the meetings of the first session of the committee of the unified political organization, which ended its work in the city of Ta'izz yesterday. They were seen off in the (Al-Shuraygah) area by Brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Brother Muhsin al-Yusufi, governor of the Ta'izz Governorate and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of officials at the Unity Affiars Office and the Ta'izz Governorate.

Statement on Meetings Issued

JN0411062589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The 31 October-2 November meetings of the unified political organization committee of the two parts of the homeland were concluded this morning in the city of Ta'izz. The meetings were held under the chairmanship of brothers Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee.

The committee issued the following press statement: In the name of God, the merciful,the compassionate. In an

atmosphere permeated with a spirit of brotherhood, frankness, and sense of national responsibility toward the great objectives of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions, ahead of which is the great objective of the Yemeni people represented in regaining the unity of the Yemeni homeland, both land and people, and in implementation of the unionist agreements signed by the leaders of the two parts, the unified political organization committee of the two parts of the homeland held its first meeting in the city of Ta'izz in the period 31 October-2 November under the chairmanship of brothers Dr 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee.

The committee discussed the concepts and proposals linked to its task with a spirit of joint conviction of the importance of the free and responsible thinking which is in agreement with the objectives and principles of the Yemeni revolution and its national and democratic roots and dimensions, divorced from any rigid concepts and preconceived judgments, and using the national experiences that have accumulated over the march of the Yemeni revolution and pan-Arab and human experiences in general.

Through these discussions, the committee affirmed the soundness of the trend to promote national participation in political action making use of whatever consolidates democracy, respecting the opinion of all, and practicing democratic freedoms guaranteed by the constitution of the state of unity. Likewise, the committee stressed the importance for national action to be inspired by the sacrifices of the Yemeni people to render the revolution a success and to protect and develop their achievements, as well as the need for the interaction of all national efforts based on a belief in the revolution's objectives, and the need to adopt all that strengthens and protects the homeland's freedom, sovereignty, and progress, and intensifies the practice of democracy away from everything that may be contrary to it.

While reviewing the political documents of the two parts of the homeland, the committee noted the existence of many common factors that must be consolidated and developed with whatever helps promote realistic thinking stemming from the traditions, characteristics, and noble human values of the Yemeni community, and the principles and objectives of its triumphant revolution. To conclude its work, the committee approved the principles that it can use as guidelines throughout its course of action and a timetable for its forthcoming meetings.

President Approves Loan Agreement With Arab Fund

JN0411211489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has ratified Law No 23 of 1989, approving the 8.6-million-Kuwaiti-dinar loan agreement held between the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance the YAR part of the project to link up electrical grids between the two parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

UN's Eliasson Makes Statement, Departs 3 Nov

JN0311104489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, has left Baghdad for Tehran following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA before leaving Baghdad, Eliasson said: I concluded here the first round of my talks with the Iraqi officials. I was received by President Saddam Husayn and met three times with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

He added: As you know, we are undertaking an intensive and continuous process and I will leave for Tehran with the same purpose. I am scheduled to be back in Baghdad to hold another round of productive talks.

He went on: UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and I are convinced that it is in Iraq's and Iran's interest in the long run to overcome the unhealthy and incorrect state of no war and no peace. We are convinced of the need to take the necessary measures to achieve permanent peace as soon as possible.

He also said: Our round of talks in Baghdad have dealt with the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 and, naturally, with the practical measures that can be achieved in that direction. The issue of prisoners of war is dealt with in Clause 3 of the UN Security Council resolution, and we hope the necessary progress in that important humanitarian issue can be achieved.

Romanian Minister, Delegation Arrive 3 Nov

JN0411111989 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, NOV 4, INA—Romanian Minister of Electrical Engineering Mr Nicolae Vaidescu arrived here last night with the accompanying delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr Vaidescu said that he would hold talks with Iraqi officials on means of promoting bilateral industrial cooperation.

The Romanian Minister was received at the airport by Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Mr Husayn Kamil, several officials in the ministry and the Romanian ambassador to Iraq.

Vietnamese Building Minister Concludes Visit

Meets With Hammadi

JN0411193889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, this afternoon received Ngo Xuan Loc, Vietnamese building minister, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and the issue of bolstering bilateral economic cooperation.

Departs With Delegation

JN0511095489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Vietnamese Building Minister Ngo Xuan Loc and the delegation accompanying him have left Baghdad following a visit to Iraq during which he attended the inauguration of the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

During his visit, the Vietnamese minister met with a number of Iraqi officials to help develop and enhance bilateral cooperation in economic and trade spheres.

Hungarian Finance Minister Attends Baghdad Fair

Arrives With Delegation 5 Nov

JN0511091089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Baghdad at dawn today to participate in the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

It is to be recalled that the 26th Baghdad International Fair was opened on Wednesday [1 November].

Meets With Planning Minister

JN0511182289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister and head of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-Hungarian joint committee, today met with Laszlo Bekesi, Hungarian finance minister and head of the Hungarian side, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed spheres of economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries, as well as ways to promote the existing economic agreement between the two countries.

Hasan Meets FRG, U.S., Romanian Officials

JN0411203289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Industry and Military Industries Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan today received Juan Jortsen [name as received], FRG under secretary at the Ministry of Economics and deputy head of the FRG side to the joint Iraqi-FRG committee.

During the meeting, they reviewed the aspects of cooperation between the industrial sectors in both states and ways to develop them.

The industry and military industries minister also met with Donald D. Maurino, U.S. deputy assistant secretary

of commerce, who is currently visiting Iraq to represent his country at the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

During the meeting, which was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industries and the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad, they discussed the aspects of Iraqi-U.S. cooperation in the industrial sphere and ways to enhance it.

The minister also met with Nicolae Vaidescu, Romanian minister of electrical engineering industry. They discussed ways to develop bilateral cooperation in the industrial sphere.

During the meeting, which was attended by the two under secretaries of the ministry and the Romanian ambassador to Baghdad, the visiting minister paid tribute to the developing bilateral relations binding the two friendly states.

Hasan Confers With Chadian, Hungarian Ministers

JN0511182689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan today received Chadian Commerce and Industry Minister Amos Reoulangar and Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi separately. During the two meetings, the minister reviewed the development plan in Iraq, especially the large-scale industrial development programs which are being implemented and which will be finished by next year. He also discussed with the two ministers spheres of industrial cooperation between Iraq on one hand and Chad and Hungary on the other, as well as ways of promoting them.

The two meetings were attended by the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization under secretary and the Chadian and Hungarian ambassadors to Baghdad.

Information Minister Leaves for Muscat Meeting

JN0411201889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim left for Muscat at noon today at the head of a delegation to attend the 13th conference of the information ministers of the Arabian Gulf states scheduled to begin there tomorrow.

The information ministers will discuss ways to bolster information and cultural exchange, to exchange publications and visits by culture and media officials, to find the best formulas for ensuring the continued exchange of radio and television news programs, and to enhance cooperation among the Arabian Gulf states. [passage omitted]

The delegation accompanying the minister comprises the director general of the Radio and Television Department and the INA director general.

Oil Minister Inaugurates Oil Treatment Station

JN0211185689 Baghdad INA in English 1748 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Basra, Nov. 2, INA—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister of oil today opened a degasing station in the southern Iraqi government of al-Basrah with a design capacity estimated at three million tonnes of crude oil annually.

The construction of the station was completed within 27 months and comprised the expansion and modernization of four other existing stations, each with an annual capacity of two millions bringing the total design capacity of the project to 11 million tonnes annually.

The project included degasing equipment and equipment for the treatment of wet oil and desalination and injection of water and a pumping system in addition to 19 big tanks the storing capacity of each ranges between 500 to 5000 tonnes. The project also included the extension of 63 pipes for the flow of oil.

The station undertakes the degasing of oil extracted from the oil deposits in the area whose total production during the experimental stages totalled 34 thousand barrels daily. The design extraction capacity of refined and marketed oil totals 80 thousand barrels daily.

The oil deposit called 'al-'ata' ath-thalith' is one of the three oil fields of al-Zubayr. Works in the project covered drilling 90 new wells, 50 of them were for oil production and the other 40 for injecting water to boost pressure in the desposit.

The project aims at increasing the production capacity of the deposit from 3.5 million tonnes annually to 11 million tonnes annually which means an increase of 150 thousand barrels daily.

Radio Reports 'Awn's Rejection of Election

JN0511195089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Lebanese President General Michel 'Awn has announced that electing Rene Mu'awwad as president of the republic is unconstitutional. In a statement to Lebanese television, he said that what has happened is unconstitutional and that we will continue our position.

An INA correspondent in Beirut said that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has officially endorsed the national accord document, which was approved by the deputies in al-Ta'if on 22 October.

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies today elected Deputy Rene Mu'awwad as president of the republic. During its meeting at the al-Qulay'at airbase in northern Lebanon, where the Syrian Army is deployed, Husayn al-Husayni was elected speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and Albert Muhkaybir was elected deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, although he did not attend the session and was in East Beirut.

Rene Mu'awwad took the constitutional oath immediately following his election as president of the republic for a 6-year term. The election took place during a session held at the al-Qulay'at airbase this morning.

Shamir, Peres, Rabin, Arens Discuss Baker Plan

TA0311115089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In the course of next week, the members of the forum of four will try to arrive at a formula on the Baker plan that will be acceptable to all of them and be put to a vote in the Inner Cabinet. Today's meeting at Finance Minister Shim'on Peres' residence, which ended a short time ago, made progress, but not all the differences between the Likud and the Alignment were settled. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the broadcasting van:

Shalom to you from outside Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres's home in Ramat Aviv. The meeting of the forum of four, which includes Shamir, Peres, Rabin, and Arens, lasted about 90 minutes and ended a few minutes ago.

Upon emerging from the meeting, the ministers refused to say much, while Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein delivered a somewhat vague announcement about the contents of the meeting. It seems the ministers would like to maintain a certain vagueness in order not to commit themselves either way. The atmosphere in the meeting was good, much better than it had been before, and was described as cautiously optimistic. Sources in the Alignment believe that Shamir and Arens in principle are ready to accept Baker's amendments, but they must still discuss various related matters, such as the guarantees demanded by Israel not to include the PLO in the negotiations and not to pressure it to agree to the PLO's participation. We heard Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's comments upon emerging from the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The four of us met to exchange views, and we will try to submit a position acceptable to all to the Inner Cabinet. I said we will try, but this is an ongoing effort, and that is all I can say.

[Israeli Television correspondent Yig'al Goren] Generally speaking, the Alignment has actually accepted the Baker initiative and did not demand any changes. Following today's meeting, do you think chances are greater that this initiative will be accepted by both parts of the government?

[Rabin] At the moment I cannot speak for both parts of the government. I believed and I still believe that the efforts to implement the Israeli Government's peace initiative have a chance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shamir, Arens Accept Plan 'on Condition'

TA0311192389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens have accepted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan on condition that Israel's request for a series of U.S. guarantees is granted. This became evident today during the meeting of the forum of four [Shamir, Arens, Peres, and Rabin] which took place in the home of Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein has been entrusted with formulating Israel's request for guarantees, and he may raise the issue in Washington when he arrives there in 2 days.

Top echelons of the Likud and the Alignment perceive the convening of the forum of four today as an important development in the political process. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports on this meeting:

[Begin recording] [Goren] We witnessed an unconventional scene for the first time this morning: Yitzhaq Shamir arriving at the residence of Shim'on Peres, who is recuperating at his home in Tel Aviv. Even before the meeting it was clear that the prime minister would accept the Baker initiative, but only on condition that the United States provide Israel with guarantees precluding the participation of the PLO in the negotiations. Indeed, during the meeting of the forum of four it transpired that Shamir and Arens are willing to accept the initiative on the condition that it is accompanied by suitable guarantees. Most of the meeting was devoted to the question of how the United States could guarantee the nonparticipation of the PLO in the Palestinian delegation for negotiations.

[Arens] We are mainly interested in two points. These are very important points. If we can secure these clauses we can prevent the danger of any circumvention of the Israeli peace initiative, or the danger that we would suddenly find ourselves facing a PLO delegation. The points are the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda. We want to be coordinated with the United States. We want to be sure of U.S. support for our positions on these issues.

[Goren] Upon the conclusion of the meeting, Shim'on Peres escorted the prime minister to his car, to the delight of neighborhood children who were excited by the unique sight. The atmosphere at the meeting was good and all the participants emphasized that this was an important meeting for furthering the political process. Although a lot of complicated work lies ahead in formulating the guarantees, Defense Minister Rabin also sounded optimistic.

[Rabin] I believed, and I still believe, that the efforts to implement the Israeli Government's peace initiative have a chance.

[Goren] In your opinion, what current obstacles, if any, remain?

[Rabin] Look, there is no point in getting into details. I attach great importance to the fact that the government, as a national unity government, should continue doing all it can to implement our initiative. I think it has a chance. There is no certainty, but it has a chance.

[Goren] The basic agreement in the forum of four admittedly eases the tension between the Likud and the Alignment. On the other hand, it greatly increases the tension inside the Likud between the Shamir camp and the constraints ministers [Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i], who have threatened to convene the Likud Central Committee and vote against accepting the U.S. initiative. Do you see the possibility of the constraints ministers torpedoing the Israeli peace initiative?

[Arens] I do not think so. I want to believe that they, just like all the Israeli people, are interested in furthering the peace process. I hope that eventually they will lend their hand to move the peace process forward.

[Goren] At any rate, it appears that they are planning an all-out attack on Prime Minister Shamir and yourself. Do you also believe it necessary that the Likud Central Committee be convened to decide?

[Arens] If such an all-out attack indeed takes place, we will have to confront it just as we confront attacks from the left; and, I am sure, we will be able to withstand it.

[Goren] Thank you. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 November reports that "the forum of four has decided to formulate a joint Likud-Alignment proposal on the political issue. The proposal will call for the acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point initiative, on condition that U.S. guarantees are provided that Israel would not have to negotiate with the PLO, and that only procedural matters are to be discussed in the talks. The proposal will be brought before the Inner Cabinet next week. The Inner Cabinet may convene even if Ministers Rabin and Arens, who are leaving overseas, are absent."]

Party Leaders Debating Response to Baker Plan

TA0411195689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Leaders of the Likud and the Alignment are currently engaged in efforts to formulate a joint document which will state that Israel accepts Baker's proposal in full, while at the same time demanding guarantees from the United States. If an agreement is reached, the Inner Cabinet will convene tomorrow afternoon to decide and vote on the issue. To this end, the foreign minister is even thinking of putting off his trip to Japan by 24 hours.

In the studio is our political correspondent, Yig'al Goren, with initial details about political developments:

[Goren] Yesterday afternoon, a few hours after the meeting of the forum of four in Tel Aviv, a special courier delivered the text of Israel's response to the United States—as drafted by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein in anticipation of the Inner Cabinet session—to the private residences of Peres and Rabin.

Peres and Rabin were surprised to find out that the prime minister and the foreign minister, who had sounded positive to them earlier in the day, were proposing a formula saying that Israel accepts Baker's initiative, contingent on the receipt of a series of guarantees from the United States. As the Alignment leaders see it, this wording makes acceptance of the Baker initiative conditional on the guarantees demanded by Israel. In practice, they believe, this implies the rejection of the U.S. initiative.

In consultations held this evening by the Alignment's top leaders it was decided to demand that this condition be changed. The Alignment leaders formulated a counterproposal this evening which does not make acceptance of the U.S. initiative conditional on the guarantees demanded by Israel. It is now up to the prime minister to make a decision.

A senior political source in the Likud told us this evening that the word contingent should not be interpreted as a condition, because Israel will not accept the Baker initiative without the guarantees anyway.

If the leaders of the Likud and the Alignment manage to come to a mutually acceptable formula, the issue may be submitted to the Inner Cabinet's decision as early as tomorrow afternoon. If that is the case, Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i will find themselves in the minority opposite the Alignment and Shamir's camp. If a formula is not reached, the debate by the Inner Cabinet will be postponed, seeing that Shamir will not engage in a confrontation with the Alignment and the constraints ministers.

It should be pointed out that in talks with Likud and Alignment leaders this evening, optimism was voiced about reaching a mutually acceptable formula because this is extremely vital to the prime minister. If such a formula is attained, he will be able to go to the United States without risking a confrontation with the administration, which has been awaiting his positive response with bated breath.

Forum of Four Accepts Baker Plan 'in Principle'

TA0511081089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0751 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good morning from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has announced that the Inner Cabinet will convene at 1600 [1400 GMT] this afternoon. The meaning of this announcement is that a compromise, or rather a decision, has been achieved in the forum of four [Shamir, Arens, Peres, and Rabin] with regard to the amended Baker plan. The interpretation is that the forum of four—although not the Cabinet, at this stage—endorses the amended Baker plan. These are the initial facts we have learned about the forum of four meeting, which ended about 30 minutes ago.

The Baker plan, then, including the guarantees Israel requested, was accepted in principle by the forum of four. This means that the Inner Cabinet will convene at 1600 today to discuss further details.

The balance of power in the Inner Cabinet: All the Alignment ministers and the Shamir-Arens camp in the Likud support the plan; the constraints ministers are the only ones who oppose it. The balance of power is, at this point, nine versus three. There is no doubt, therefore, that if the issue is submitted to a vote in the Inner Cabinet, it will be endorsed.

Peres Says Plan Accepted, Guarantees Sought

TA0511101289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended a short while ago. Coming out of the meeting, Minister Peres said that, in principle, Baker's plan is being accepted, with the addition of guarantees which the United States will be asked to provide.

This afternoon the Inner Cabinet will discuss the joint formulation reached by the forum of four this morning. Before the Inner Cabinet session, the Alignment and Likud ministers will hold separate meetings. A private meeting of the three constraints ministers is also expected. They are expected to persevere in their rejection of the Baker plan.

Acceptance Resolution Proposed by Forum of Four

TA0511112989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended about 1 hour ago. This afternoon, the Inner Cabinet will convene to discuss the proposed resolution formulated jointly by the forum of four.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has learned that the proposed resolution states that Foreign Minister Arens will advise his counterpart Baker that Israel accepts the five-point plan on the assumption that guarantees will be received from the United States. The guarantees, as specified in the proposed resolutions, are the following: The United States will guarantee that Israel will not be obliged to negotiate with the PLO, and that the talks will revolve only around the issue of elections and modalities.

Our correspondent has further learned that last week Minister Arens received clarifications from the United States, according to which Washington accepts Israel's position rejecting the participation of the PLO in the process and insisting that the present stage is merely an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on the issue of elections.

Likud Ministers Endorse Forum of Four Proposal

TA0511131789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Likud ministers have ended their preparatory meeting for the Inner Cabinet session this afternoon to discuss Israel's response to the Baker plan. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the decision of the majority was to support the draft resolution formulated by the forum of four.

The three ministers who initiated the constraints [Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i] voted against. There were sharp verbal exchanges between the prime minister and the three. At the end of the meeting, Minister Moshe Qatzav said that the plan contains risks and dangers, but he believes that the decision of the forum of four should be endorsed. Mr Qatzav believes that the guarantees we demand from the United States will allay some of the fears. In any event, he added, we will first discuss the issue of the elections and only later will the lengthy process of negotiations start.

At the end of the Likud ministers session, the ministers who initiated the constraints convened in Yitzhaq Moda'i's office to decide on their future moves.

Inner Cabinet Endorses Amended Baker Plan

TA0511173389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet this evening endorsed the amended Baker plan, as submitted, by a majority of nine to three. The plan is accompanied by an Israeli request for six U.S. guarantees. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

Good evening. The Inner Cabinet session ended some 15 minutes ago, and all of the ministers have already left the meeting. The result was nine to three. Nine ministers—six from the Alignment and three from the Arens-Shamir camp in the Likud—voted in favor of the plan, while the three known as the constraints ministers voted against it. The plan was accepted. The plan that was accepted is the five-point amended Baker plan, to which Israel has added a request for six U.S. guarantees that would ensure Israel's status at the negotiations. There is no clear linkage between the guarantees Israel is requesting and the acceptance in principle of Baker's plan. At the conclusion of the session we heard Foreign Minister Moshe Arens:

[Begin Arens recording] At the same time, I believe it is important to stress that a very important decision has been reached here this evening. It is a logical and direct follow-up to the Cabinet decision on the peace initiative. I believe that it constitutes a very important step in the process of promoting the peace in our region. [end recording]

These were the remarks of Minister Arens, one of the architects of the plan.

Now what? Now that the Cabinet has endorsed the plan, the foreign minister will brief his U.S. counterpart, James Baker. The ball is now moving to the Palestinian court. The Palestinians are still expected to reply to Baker's plan.

Decision To Accept Baker Plan Draws Reaction

Peres, Arens, Moda'i Comment

TA0511182789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet this evening adopted a resolution that Israel will accept Secretary of State Baker's five-point proposal, while asking the United States for certain assurances. Only the three opposition Likud ministers—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—voted against the decision.

Earlier, the prime minister told a meeting of the Likud ministers that under no circumstances would Israel negotiate with the PLO. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Although the result was a foregone conclusion, it took more than 2 hours for the Inner Cabinet to adopt this resolution. The resolution says Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will inform Secretary of State James Baker that Israel accepts his five-point proposal for a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian delegations on the assumption that the United States will provide certain guarantees, mainly that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO and that the talks will deal only with Israel's proposal for elections in the territories.

After the Inner Cabinet meeting, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres expressed satisfaction with the decision. We asked him what would happen if the United States refused to supply the guarantees Israel asked for. Had Washington agreed to give them in writing?

[Begin Peres recording] We trust the United States. I don't see any difference in writing or no writing, but probably we shall get it in writing; everything is (?given) in writing. I hope the next step will be the composition of the Palestinian delegation. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said the Inner Cabinet decision was an important step forward toward free, democratic elections in the territories. We asked him whether Israel's request for U.S. guarantees was a condition placed upon Jerusalem's agreement to the Baker plan.

[Begin Arens recording] We are hopeful that we will get the assurances. We know that it is the desire of Secretary Baker that the basis for the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue be totally consistent with Israel's peace initiative. [end recording]

By contrast, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said the Inner Cabinet decision was another step in Israel's decline, in a process that will jeopardize our security and even our existence. Even if Israel does receive the U.S. guarantees, Moda'i said, how much weight can it give them?

[Begin Moda'i recording] Well, we have full trust in America, not too much in the assurances. We have had assurances that America itself won't talk to the PLO, and look at the open discussions in Tunisia. [end recording]

Moda'i and Ministers David Levi and Ari'el Sharon are considering calling a meeting of the Likud Central Committee to place new restrictions on the prime minister's peace initiative and to swap [as heard] the Baker plan.

Peres Reviews 'Next Step'

TA0611093189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program on 6 November—recorded]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Barqay] In the Likud there is currently a great uproar. The question, Mr Peres, is what is the next step?

[Peres] We have to inform the United States of what we have decided. The decision is very clear and very detailed. We accept Baker's five points and according to what he himself proposed—we have requested guarantees on a number of issues. I assume that most of these issues will be worked out. Afterward we must wait for the composition of the Palestinian delegation with which we will hold negotiations.

[Barqay] And this is where we could step on a mine, I understand.

[Peres] I hope that the Likud behaves in the same way. Look, one cannot take one step forward and one step backward every day. The moment we agreed to elections, and the minute we all understand that there are two sides to each coin... we are not the only ones making decisions here. This is also what we are interested in: finding the second side of the coin. Therefore we must move forward all the time until we achieve our goal.

[Barqay] The problem is that the Likud, or at least some people in the Likud, fear that the second side of the coin is the PLO.

[Peres] The second side of the coin is the Palestinians. It has been clearly stated that we are talking about a delegation composed of residents of the territories. Now they will consult with whoever they want to. I would also like to tell you something: whoever is frightened is frightened. The situation today in the Knesset is that the majority supports territorial compromise. We must not forget this. A new situation came into being from the moment a number of religious parties announced that the sanctity of life is more important than the territories,

or that some of the territories must be relinquished in return for real peace. The Likud must take this new situation into account. After all, we are supposed to provide for the country's needs, not the needs of this or that party, and we cannot become accustomed to the thought that there is a party that is above everything.

[Barqay] I would like to quote several things said by another member of your party, by Minister 'Ezer Weizman, and I think he also expressed them in the Inner Cabinet. He said that we should not delude ourselves, as we actually are negotiating with the PLO.

[Peres] Look, everyone is entitled to his own opinion. What we want is to negotiate with an elected delegation instead of an appointed one. At any rate, you know, everyone lives by his own words. I am not pointing out these particular people. I am talking about many people, what this or that person said, and what did he say here and what did he say in front of others. What has changed in our world are not the words. What has changed in our world is the entire situation. There is no point in turning one's back to the world and saying: I am not playing this game; I am cross. The world has changed. Look at the same old Soviet Union, which used to, let us say, support Syria, Ethiopia, and the PLO. The same Soviet Union has new positions today. We cannot always close our eyes with everyone quoting what he said and what he was concerned or frightened about. Happy is the man who is always wary, but we should also be wary that we may in fact not be reading the new world map correctly.

[Barqay] Maybe we can hear some of your own fears, Mr Peres?

[Peres] Look, first of all I think there are two clocks ticking. One is the strategic clock, while the second is the demographic clock. From a strategic point of view, I think Israel is a strong country which is capable of defending itself adequately. Israel has deterrent weaponry and an excellent army. Nevertheless, we are not interested in either war or intifadah. They do not flatter us. We understand very well that there are conflicts between nations that cannot be resolved by military means. As for those who say that the intifadah can be quelled by military measures: We spent 2 or 3 years in Lebanon, with the full force of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and what happened there? Did Lebanon change? It is good that we got out of there. The way out of the current political-strategic situation is through political means, not military means.

The second matter is the demographic issue. This is one issue we certainly cannot ignore. I constantly ask, without receiving an answer, whether the Gaza Strip is a territory or a populace? There are those who say that the Gaza Strip is part of the State of Israel. What are they referring to—the sand or the people? Of course there will always be fears, but I am not doing this out of fear but rather out of hope.

[Barqay] With your permission, I would like to give you a different scenario. Why not wait until King Husayn joins his ancestors and then give the Palestinians a state in Jordan?

[Peres] Do you want two states? Do you want a large and strong Palestinian state? I do not understand why Husayn bothers you. Is it because he is more pro-West? Is it because he respects the border with Israel? Because he causes no trouble? Why? I simply cannot understand this at all.

[Barqay, interrupting] To prevent the establishment of two Palestinian states.

[Peres] And what if there is a Palestinian state along both banks of the Jordan River? Besides, this is something that can also come about about during the negotiations. Would a change of the regime in Jordan solve the problems in Gaza or in Judaea and Samaria? Would it allow the Palestinians to realize their aspirations?

[Barqay] The second mine I referred to concerned the composition of the Palestinian delegation, and I understand that you in the Labor Party are willing for it to include some Palestinians who do not reside here.

[Peres] First of all, we are talking about residents of Judaea and Samaria. Are we talking about deportees? First of all, we agreed to the return of some of the deportees. What is wrong with this? They are residents of the territories, and a way must really be found to overcome the obstacles that still exist. I hope that we will show sufficient flexibility. We do not always have to wait for the Americans to come and back us into a corner, giving everything the appearance of resulting from U.S. pressure. There is no need to pressure us. We ourselves want to further the peace process; we ourselves want to conduct negotiations with the Palestinians. I do not see the wisdom in showing the world that we only act when we are pressured.

[Barqay] If the constraints ministers continue making statements similar to those they are expressing today and taking the same actions, do you think Shamir should fire them?

[Peres] The prime minister will decide. He has internal party considerations, and I understand that they are naturally quite powerful. It is his decision. I am not willing to volunteer advice to anyone.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, you jumped straight back into the thick of things, and I would like to ask you if you feel okay and if you have fully recovered from your illness?

[Peres] Yes, I feel all right. I hope the illness is over; at any rate, I am over the illness. I came right in time for the important decisions. Since Friday morning and all through Saturday we worked on the document, and we came up with a counterproposal. I think the counterproposal is fair and honorable. It is not a document that is based on haggling, but on a clear-cut political approach which shows the United States that first of all, we accept

the five points, and that in the wake of these five points we request—as the United States itself suggested—the specified guarantees. By the way, in my opinion we have every chance of receiving the guarantees we formulated.

[Barqay] Thank you, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

Levi Warns Against Baker Plan

TA0511200789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister, by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran "after the Likud ministers meeting, before the Inner Cabinet session"—videorecorded]

[Text] [Levi] This party, which is the largest in Israel, cannot become a supermarket which no one knows what it sells or even what sort of wrapping it has. The way its decisions and resolutions were played down is unheard of in the party and in a democratic regime. That is why we are going to insist that the party's decision will be binding on all of its representatives.

I anticipate a very difficult situation very soon, faster than is generally believed, because at this very moment Egypt and the PLO are coordinating positions. The PLO is discussing the same issues. It is being asked to reply, and everyone here is turning a blind eye and making like an ostrich who does not see or hear anything. I believe they—those who have to shoulder the responsibility but who are hiding documents and everything else that is needed to make the right decisions—are not only confusing the decisionmakers, they are also confusing the whole nation. This is my belief. It is our duty to stand up and explain it.

['Azran] Mr Levi, you are in fact making very serious charges against the prime minister.

[Levi] Tell me, sir, do you live in this country? Who can I blame besides my colleagues who acted the way they did? I am not in a monastery, nor am I a yes-man [preceding word in English]. I want to know just what is my party's stand. After a stand has been stated, one cannot mislead, divert, and later disregard the party all together. If the Likud has reached a conclusion that it must change its stand and recognize the PLO, and in fact opt for a position that is basically different from its own ideological foundations, this is quite a turn. Maybe it is time for everyone to do some thinking about how to defend Eretz Yisra'el and about the difference between the Likud and the Alignment. Today we have reached a blurred and a confused situation. Today there is doubt whether anyone knows where he is going, what the destination is, and what will be the things to which he has to adhere. I am not convinced that what we are witnessing here is endurance. It is my duty to talk about things the way I see them.

Sharon: Decision 'Disasterous'

TA0511204389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet decision to accept Baker's plan is disastrous and will lead the government to a dead end, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon said this evening. Speaking to our correspondent 'Ido Baum, Minister Sharon said that he intends to push for the convening of the Likud Central Committee before Prime Minister Shamir leaves for the United States.

Parties React to Resolution

TA0511201589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Tehiya Knesset faction will submit a no-confidence motion tomorrow following the Inner Cabinet decision to accept Baker's five-point plan. The faction believes that Baker's plan will lead to talks with the PLO despite assurances, which only mislead the public and Likud voters, according to the Tehiya.

The Citizens Rights Movement faction notes the Inner Cabinet resolution with satisfaction. It is time that we stop appearing to the world as those who fear peace.

The Center-Shiny movement also congratulates the Inner Cabinet for the resolution it made, and believes it to be a step toward opening an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban expressed satisfaction with the Inner Cabinet resolution, despite the reservations accompanying it, and the delays in making it, which caused an erosion in Israel's status.

Six Requested U.S. 'Guarantees' Detailed

TA0611053789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Arens said the next step in the political process is for the United States to give Israel the guarantees it has requested and for the composition of the Palestinian delegation that will be acceptable to Israel.

Israel is asking the United States for six assurances:

—that Israel will only negotiate with residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and only after it has approved the Palestinian delegation;
—Israel will not negotiate with the PLO;
—the Cairo talks will focus only on the Israeli elections proposal;
—the United States will publicly support Israel's position and will stand by Israel in the event that another party deviates from what has been agreed to;
—the United States and Egypt will declare their support for the Camp David accords;

—and one meeting will take place in Cairo and its results will determine if the talks will continue. [passage omitted]

Guarantees Form 'Integral' Part of Decision

TA0611064389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Ehud Olmert by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Good morning, Minister Ehud Olmert.

[Olmert] And a very good morning to you.

[Einstein] Will Israel reject the Baker initiative if the guarantees that the Inner Cabinet requested on six issues are not accepted by the United States? I ask this because I understand that there is some argument as to the meaning of the term: on the assumption that.

[Olmert] I do not know about this argument. I know one thing: Yesterday the Inner Cabinet made a decision that for us constitutes one integral package. This package is made up of several clauses, which said that first of all we accept the five points; second, that we accept these five points on the assumption that several conditions are met, and we specified these points.

I would like to say—and it is important to emphasize this because some people seem to be trying to paint a different picture of the Inner Cabinet's decision— the decision explicitly stated that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. It must be remembered that this is not just a decision by the Likud; after all, as far as we are concerned, this decision is self-evident. The fact of the matter is that this decision was made and agreed upon by the entire Inner Cabinet. In other words, the Israeli Government is committed to a total rejection of negotiations with the PLO. There are several other clauses, some of which have undoubtedly already been reported.

[Einstein] Now I would like to ask you a question. We hear that in Washington, at any rate, they are waiting for the PLO's reaction to the Baker initiative. It seems that the process will not move forward without the PLO's acceptance of the Baker initiative, and perhaps the process will not move forward without changes in the original initiative according to the PLO's demand.

[Olmert] Look, I have reason to assume that this is not the U.S. position. But of course we are entering negotiations, and it is quite possible that the United States will want to alter this or that point. If this will be the case, the Israeli Government will have to decide whether we still accept the initiative under altered conditions. I can promise you that the Likud will not be partner to any initiative that will not adopt the same position on the issue of negotiations with the PLO as that decided upon yesterday between the two partners to the coalition—the Likud and the Alignment. [passage omitted]

PLO To Accept Five Points Subject to Promises

TA0511074089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem has received reports from authorized sources in Cairo who say central PLO leaders have stated that they will endorse Baker's five points subject to U.S. promises, but will withhold the announcement until the document is endorsed by the [Israeli] Inner Cabinet.

While Israel is seeking guarantees, the PLO last week received positive indications on a series of almost symmetrical guarantees to be granted if the organization accepts the Baker document: The United States will support the inclusion of two deportees and insist on the inclusion of East Jerusalem figures in the delegation to Cairo, provided that the PLO refrains from publicly declaring that PLO leaders had composed the delegation. The PLO will be promised that the Cairo encounter debates will not be limited to a single issue, and that the superpowers will extend their patronage to the Cairo encounter. [passage omitted]

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has warned the PLO Supreme Executive Committee, which opened its deliberations in Cairo yesterday, that if the PLO fails to formulate an agreed-upon outlook that would bind the PLO leaders and would be coordinated with Egypt it will be impossible to carry on the initiative for the promotion of an Israeli-Palestinian encounter.

Egyptian sources, which reported this development last night, noted that the warning was relayed to the Executive Committee members by Yasir 'Arafat, who chaired yesterday's meeting. [passage omitted]

Basyuni on PLO Role in Delegation to Talks

TA0511135589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Nov 89 p 19

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Tzvi Gilat; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Gilat] What is Egypt's role in the peace process?

[Basyuni] Egypt has a unique role. It has relations with Israel; it has good relations with the PLO and King Husayn; it plays a key role in the Arab League; and it has good relations with both the East and the West. All these accord Egypt a unique position, and we try to do our best to attain an understanding to advance the peace process. We never thought that peace between Israel and Egypt is an end in itself. It is the first move on the path to comprehensive peace.

[Gilat] Israel rejected Mubarak's 10 points.

[Basyuni] Israel never rejected Mubarak's points; the issue was never discussed by the Inner Cabinet. The

invitation to a meeting of two delegations in Cairo was rejected by six members of the Inner Cabinet. The 10 points were never discussed in that forum, so do not say that they were rejected.

[Gilat] Is Egypt disappointed that the points have not been discussed?

[Basyuni] One does not speak in such terms in politics. Let's be optimistic; let's try. We have patience and are prepared to work hard.

[Gilat] I understand that the PLO has accepted Baker's points. Do you have any additional information?

[Basyuni] They have accepted President Mubarak's ideas and they are negotiating Baker's points. If these 5 points do not contradict Mubarak's 10 points, then everything will be fine.

[Gilat] How will Egypt and Israel compile the list of members of the Palestinian delegation?

[Basyuni] The Palestinian people are exclusively responsible for making up the list. This is a Palestinian problem, and the Palestinians are fully entitled to choose their representatives. They may consult and work together with Egypt.

[Gilat] When you say "the Palestinian people," who exactly do you have in mind?

[Basyuni] I mean the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Do not pretend to be an ostrich hiding your head in the sand.

[Gilat] Do you mean the PLO is the sole representative?

[Basyuni] It is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Approval of 'Improved' Baker Initiative Urged

TA0211143689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "The Inner Cabinet Must Decide"]

[Text] The improved Baker initiative is perhaps not the precise version the prime minister and foreign minister awaited, but it nevertheless tries to meet Israel halfway so that its fears over the Palestinian demon will not prevent it from advancing the political process.

The changes in the Baker initiative are more than just cosmetic. Although they do not give Israel veto power over the composition of the Palestinian delegation, they assure it against surprises in the delegation's composition. This is also the case with the negotiating agenda, which will deal with the electoral issue and the territories, so dear to Shamir, Arens, and Rabin.

The amendments in the Baker initiative were achieved, it must be pointed out, thanks to the efforts and stubbornness of Moshe Arens, who suffered a lot of criticism, and often mockery, about his moves.

The ball is now in Israel's court, and the Inner Cabinet must decide whether it supports or opposes the initiative. A negative Israeli response will do away not only with the Baker initiative, but also with the entire peace process, and the blame will be placed solely on Israel and will lead to a rupture in relations with the United States.

Baker's improved initiative does not justify an unnecessary confrontation with the United States, and certainly not a rupture with it, or the creation of a nation in siege surviving on bread and margarine for the sake of its honor and independence.

Meridor Discusses Tanker Affair, Baker Proposal

TA0411104389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Mikha Friedman in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Friedman] Another burning issue on our public agenda last week was the affair of the oil tanker Nyeta, which is being held in Egypt. It seems that the strict Egyptian behavior in this affair is leading to the question of whether this is not Cairo's way of telling us: You have rejected Mubarak's 10-point plan, we will further cool down the relations between us, and the Nyeta is a good way to show it. Is this your opinion as well?

[Meridor] The truth is that I do not know. The Egyptians have not said that this is the case. Civilians can be tried for such an offense. Nonetheless, a certain degree of courtesy existing in relations between countries should be observed in this case as well. I really hope that the Egyptians will follow the appropriate modes of behavior in relations between neighboring countries.

[Friedman] As justice minister, do you not think that Israel's involvement in this case was a little more than customary?

[Meridor] I do not think so. Israel's involvement—through the Foreign Ministry, our ambassador in Cairo, Prof Shim'on Shamir, and other officials—was careful, not looking for a media debate, and I hope it will help. I hope that the Egyptians will realize that there is an accepted protocol of behavior between two countries. This is not an attempt to deny their right to try anyone they believe committed an offense in their territory—if they have proof.

[Friedman] Now that it seems that Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens are accepting Baker's amendments to his famous document, we are witnessing the Likud constraints ministers rising again and attempting to torpedo this acceptance. What do you think will take place in the next few days?

[Meridor] I do not believe that the important part is this or that item or word in a document, rather I think it is the process itself. We must rise above the formulations and see where all of this is leading us. Is this a cover-up

for an attempt to make Israel meet the PLO, or is this a true willingness to promote the guidelines as we formulated them in the Israeli peace initiative?

[Friedman] And what do you think?

[Meridor] I think that this is just the question that needs to be fully and thoroughly clarified among ourselves. We must take care not to be shoved off the road we have pointed at—the one which could lead us to an agreement, or to another road, which might mean a contact with the PLO, with a PLO delegation.

[Friedman] Your party members, the so-called constraints ministers, have already declared their absolute nay, while pointing at just these threats. Do you not share their opinion?

[Meridor] I would not like to refer to remarks made by other people, nor would I like to detail the various parts of the recent draft we were presented by the Americans. I believe that the system is very complicated, and the decision to be made is not easy. Still, I believe that there is no way to avoid making a decision. We have proposed a move forward. We must adhere to the way we have taken, while trying not to allow ourselves to be trapped in a situation where a clash would be inevitable.

[Friedman] This, however, is not what has happened in our relations with the U.S. Administration. These past 2 weeks, we have witnessed a chase after Baker, and an anticipation for Bush's reply on whether he would meet Prime Minister Shamir. Does this not prove that we are dealing with here, to say the least, a new administration which is not all that concerned about Arens' or Shamir's opinions?

[Meridor] This administration was elected by the Americans. We have nosay on who is President or secretary of state there. We should do what we believe is right. I have the impression that, even today, when Israel tells the Americans clearlyand preferably with a single voice, that certain issues are of essential importance for it, are clearly related to its security—not to say its existence—we can garner the public's support and even the administration's sympathy. It is when we are split that matters look different.

[Friedman] If, hovever, we insist on certain opinions which the U.S. Administration does not accept, there could still be a threat of a rift between us and the United States, could there not?

[Meridor] Look, this is always true. Try to imagine a situation where the United States would agree to something the whole population in Israel would oppose. For example, if they tel us to return to the 1967 borders, to agree to a Palestinian state, or to return what they call East Jerusalem to the Arabs, we would naturally say no. I do not want a rift to take place. If, however, a rift is inevitable, it had better be on an ssue which is essential to us and which for them is a matter of foreign policy. If we say we should never reach a conflict of interest with America, or never be caught with conflicting opinions because we insist on maintaining ours, we might as well close the shop, gentlemen. This is not what I am suggesting.

[Friedman] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, we thank you very much.

[Meridor] Thank you.

Arens Leaves for 'Official' 5-Day Tour of Japan

TA0611092789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens departed for Tokyo this morning, where he will be the guest of the Japanese Government during an official 5-day visit. The foreign minister will confer with the Japanese prime minister and the foreign minister, his host, as well as with ministers dealing with economic matters for a discussion on bilateral trade relations. Among other things, Moshe Arens will tour the Japanese science center and will appear before the Tokyo Press Club.

Minister Arens said at the airport that he hopes his talks and appearances in Japan will contribute toward a better understanding of Israel's positions and toward an improvement in Japanese-Israeli relations.

Ethiopia's Renewal of Relations Welcomed

TA0311181889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Israeli Foreign Ministry has welcomed the Ethiopian decision to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. Foreign Ministry sources reported that the renewal of relations had been agreed upon in principle during a meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Ethiopian counterpart in New York about 3 months ago. The sources added that contacts with Ethiopia regarding the renewal of ties were held for many months.

Exchange of Ambassadors Awaited

TA0411121789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Jack Katzenell on the weekly "Spotlight" program; date and place not given]

[Text] [Katzenell] Just how important is the renewal of relations at this time?

[Arens] Well, it is important. You can call it a breakthrough. Ethiopia is one of the largest countries in Africa. I would say also one of the more important countries in Africa. Ethiopia is also an African country that is relatively close to Israel. Amongst the African countries, it is one of those which is closest to Israel geographically. Also, you might know that the Arab world has been doing everything it can to keep African countries from resuming their diplomatic relations with

Israel. The same kind of pressure has been applied to Ethiopia. Nevertheless, they decided to renew their relations with us.

[Katzenell] Mr Arens, one of the most important aspects of the renewal is going to be possible family reunions with the Ethiopian Jews now in Israel. Do you think this is going to be possible in the near future?

[Arens] Well, I certainly think that it will facilitate our ability to deal directly with the Government of Ethiopia to bring out the remainder of the Ethiopian Jewry to Israel.

[Katzenell] How long a process, how difficult a process has the renewal of ties been, sir?

[Arens] We were working on it for a good number of months. We have generally found that the African countries that have renewed their relationship with us—and we have had series of countries like that, and I suppose there are going to be some more—generally go through some period of months or sometimes a year or two of secret contacts, of attempts to ward off the pressure by the Arab world on them not to do so, until they finally take the decision that they are going to resume diplomatic relations.

[Katzenell] How long do you think it will take before we have an ambassador here in Israel and an Israeli ambassador in Addis Ababa?

[Arens] I think that this will probably be shortly.

[Katzenell] Mr Arens, it has already been talked about that Israel might be able to provide a very important aid to Ethiopia in helping to combat its drought problem which is killing thousands of people every year. Do you think that this is going to be possible?

[Arens] Well, the African countries that have been in contact with us all have very high expectations as to the technological assistance—particularly in the area of agriculture—that Israel can provide, and my experience has been that we do have very specific knowledge that could be helpful for those countries. So, I don't know that we can solve the drought problems of Ethiopia, but I am sure that we can help them improve their agriculture.

[Katzenell] What message would you send to other African countries who severed ties with Israel in the past, after Israel has renewed ties with Ethiopia?

[Arens] I think the moral of the story is that they should not be intimidated by the pressure that is applied by the Arab countries, and that the relationship with Israel is one that is not only good for Israel it is also good for them.

Ethiopian Envoy Arrives

TA0511123189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] An Ethiopian Government envoy has arrived in Israel to discuss the implementation of the decision to resume the diplomatic ties between the two countries. Voice of Israel French department correspondent, Serge Kovac, reports that tomorrow the envoy will meet with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The issue of Israeli-Ethiopian cooperation will also be raised in the talks.

FRG Reneges on Offer of Export of Aluminum

TA0211175789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Germans have reneged on their offer of exporting 100,000 tons of aluminum base metal to Israel for recycling at Timna'. The Bonn government's minister for environment, nature conservation, and reactor safety today vetoed the deal. A report on that was conveyed to Dr Marinov, the director general of the Israeli Ecology and Environmental Protection Ministry.

Our correspondent Nadir Tzur reports that the FRG minister made his decision for ecological reasons. The chairman of the organization called Life and Environment, which coordinated the public struggle against the import of German waste material to Israel, expressed satisfaction with the end of the affair.

Unemployment Registers 'Slight Drop' in October

TA0511122589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 89 p 6

[Report by labor affairs correspondent Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] Signs that this year's rapid rise in unemployment might be levelling out received a further boost Friday, when the National Insurance Institute [NII] reported a slight drop in the number of unemployment benefit claimants.

NII figures showed that 50,000 people claimed unemployment pay in October, a 2.5 percent drop compared with September's 51,313 claimants. The number of first-time claimants also dropped, by 1 percent compared with September, to 10,170 people. [passage omitted]

Mordekhay Meets With Officials From Nabulus

TA0311144889 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Nabulus—Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, met yesterday with a number of figures from Nabulus and heads of government departments in the city. [passage omitted]

The commander of the Central Command discussed with them the medical, educational, commercial, and economic issues that Nabulus is currently facing, as well as the general situation in the area.

Our correspondent has learned that Zahran Hassuna, head of the education department, called for the immediate release of pupils still being held in Israeli prisons, particularly those in the upper grades, so that they would be able to take this year's final examinations and thus not lose their academic future. He also called for the opening of universities and other educational institutions, particularly since this year's high school graduates will be the third class that will face closed universities. He also asked for the authorities' permission to complete the school building named after the late Zafir al-Masri, former mayor of Nabulus, the construction of which has been halted for 3 years. [passage omitted]

Dr Hatim Abu-Ghazalah pointed out that the current events are taking place after 20 years of the territories' occupation and the suffering that this occupation has inflicted on the residents. No one can stop the current incidents in the occupied territories unless a just solution of the Palestinian people's problem is achieved.

Abu-Ghazalah then referred to the current situation in Nabulus municipality, explaining that the Israeli authorities contributed greatly in creating the crisis there by not paying their financial obligations, such as the fuel tax. Even now the authorities are refusing to pay. This has increased the suffering and the budget constraints the municipality and its staff are now facing.

Haj Nazih Dhiyab talked about the bad commercial and economic conditions that Nabulus is experiencing and referred to the army's daily behavior against the residents, as well as the daily raids by customs agents which have contributed to paralyzing trade and economic transactions.

At the end of this meeting, which lasted almost 2 hours, the commander of the Central Command promised to discuss these topics and issues with the responsible authorities. He then inspected the various areas of the city that saw a complete commercial strike yesterday.

Gazans To Visit Cairo To Discuss Delegation

TA0511054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Four prominent residents of the Gaza Strip intend to leave this week for Egypt to discuss with government leaders there the composition of the proposed Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel. Palestinian sources said the four Palestinians are educator Asad al-Saftawi, Dr Dhakariyya al-Ar'a, businessman Mansur al-Shawwa, and Dr Ahmad al-Yazchi. The four will meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and chief presidential aide Usamah al-Baz.

Another prominent Palestinian, Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus, is in Cairo meeting Foreign Ministry officials.

Navy Stops 'Terrorist Vessel,' Arrests Crew

TA0311211589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Israeli Navy personnel have arrested several members of a terrorist vessel and brought them in for questioning. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Navy boats on routine patrol along the Lebanese coast noticed a suspicious looking vessel sailing toward Sidon. Following an inspection of the boat and its crew, it happened that most of them were Palestinian terrorists. Several crew members were taken in for interrogation, while the remainder were sent on their way.

Police Consider Buying Small Drone Aircraft

TA0211060989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The police are probing the possibility of purchasing mini-RPV's [remotely piloted vehicles] for operational use. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that, during last Friday's prayers in the mosques, the police held a demonstration of the RPV's operation for senior police officers.

Israel Aircraft Industries personnel flew the mini-RPV over the Temple Mount and other Old City and West Jerusalem areas.

Lahd Returns From Medical Treatment in FRG

TA0311115889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], General Lahd, has returned home after 3 weeks of medical treatment in West Germany.

SLA officials have denied reports that the woman who attempted to murder to Lahd earlier this year has been killed. The officials say the woman is still in jail.

IDF Begins Investigating UNIFIL Complaint

TA0411053989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The commander of UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon] has complained to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] about Israeli artillery fire during Wednesday and Thursday nights [1 and 2 November]. A source in UNIFIL headquarters told the Voice of Israel that UNIFIL troops had to take cover and that it was a miracle that nobody was hurt.

An IDF source said that the complaint was being investigated, but in any case, IDF artillery fire was strictly for operational purposes, the sources said.

Statistics on Fatah 'Terrorists' in Lebanon

TA0511150889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Israeli Navy boats detained a yacht that was on its way from Cyprus to Sidon off the Lebanese coast on Thursday night. Three terrorists were identified on board and arrested. [passage omitted]

In the past 3 years Fatah has stepped up its efforts to bring as many terrorists as possible back to Lebanon in general and to southern Lebanon in particular, the main destinations being the areas of Tyre and Sidon. Among other things, the purpose of the Israeli Navy patrols is to prevent, to the extent possible, the return of Palestinian terrorists and the delivery of weapons to southern Lebanon by sea. Dozens of Palestinian terrorists have been arrested and brought to Israel for questioning in the past few years.

The number of Palestinian terrorists identified with Fatah (Yasir 'Arafat's organization) who have returned since their expulsion during the Lebanon war is 400 for the Sidon area and over 1,000 for the Tyre area. The number of Fatah members in Lebanon currently stands at 4,000, out of some 8,000 members outside Israel and the territories.

The total number of Palestinian terrorists, members of various organizations, currently in Lebanon is 11,000. Their geographic distribution is as follows: Tripoli (northern Lebanon)—700; al-Biqa' Valley—1,700; al-Shuf Mountains—1,000; Beirut—3,000; Sidon—3,000; and Tyre—1,500.

Man Killed Attempting To Cross Jordanian Border

TA0611095189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] A Qalqilyah resident who was wanted by the security forces was killed early this morning by shots fired by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol as he was trying to cross the border into Jordan in the Jordan Rift Valley, north of Mehola. Another man, who was with him, apparently succeeded in crossing the border into Jordan. Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el is in the studio and will bring us some more details:

Early this morning a routine IDF patrol spotted two figures moving eastward along the border in the Jordan Rift Valley, north of Mehola. The soldiers on the patrol opened fire at them, injuring one of them. He received medical treatment on the spot by a military doctor, but died later of his wounds. Military sources reported that the other person may well have crossed the border into Jordan.

The name of the dead man is Za'im Mahmud Da'ud Haj Hasan, a 20-year-old resident of Qalqilyah. He had been on the security forces wanted list for approximately 2 years. He was suspected of having perpetrated a long list of attacks. Among others, he hurled firebombs at Israeli vehicles in Qalqilyah earlier this year. He also instigated and staged violent attacks against residents whom he suspected of collaborating with Israel and burned their belongings.

To repeat, Hasan was killed early this morning by shots fired by an IDF patrol as he was trying to cross the border into Jordan. His companion was not caught and evidently managed to flee to Jordan.

King Husayn Discusses Role of Islam in Nation

JN0411200989 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with an elite gathering of Islamic men of the cloth and those concerned with Islamic affairs at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His majesty reviewed the local, Arab, and international dimensions of the current situation. He stressed the principles that govern Jordan's path, foremost of which is the Arab order's relationship with religion and faith. He pointed out that Islam and Arabism are two integrated pillars of our nation, that they are the source of our strength and life, and that the Arab relationship with Islam is deep-rooted and essential.

His majesty said that Jordan is standing on a long line of confrontation with Israel, which rejects a peace based on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly from the city of Jerusalem, which is central to its religion. He stressed that Israel continuously seeks to render Caliph 'Umar's covenant [7th century covenant issued by Caliph 'Umar pledging Muslim noninterference in Jerusalem's Christianity] devoid of its essence. His majesty added that Jordan is targeted at this stage because of its position and stand, and that this necessitates full awareness by all sides of the delicacy of this stage that urges us to make every effort to safeguard our national fabric against any attempt to create estrangement and confusion.

His majesty called on all sides to rise to the occasion and hold an objective and responsible dialogue among themselves within a framework of centrism, moderation, and rationality that are adopted by this country in line with our faith, which rejects the exploitation of religion and the use of it as a means to achieve political objectives. He said that we should not allow our faith to sink to a level that would make it a topic of daily argument by those who do not know.

His majesty asked the ulema to play their important role in tackling the essential issues of the society and in defending our tolerant religion through wisdom, peaceful dialogue, and good lessons that are the most prominent characteristics of ulema.

His majesty was briefed by this Islamic elite on a number of issues and matters that are related to religion and society. They appealed to his majesty to instruct the competent authorities to confine the task of issuing edicts to the Ifta' Council [the council responsible for issuing religious edicts], and to issue the necessary legislations to give a binding nature to the edicts issued by this council. They thanked his majesty for his royal instructions on the need to avoid extravagance, excess, and all that would contribute to creating ideological confusion in the society. They appealed to his majesty to instruct the competent authorities to protect and fortify the citizen against this confusion by developing the educational curriculum, exercising stringent media restraint, and supporting the preaching and guidance department to enable it to play its role in qualifications and training to carry out its tasks in the best possible manner.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, and his majesty the king's political adviser. Among the men of religion and those concerned with Islamic affairs who attended the meeting were Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts; Bashir al-Sabbagh; Eng Ra'fat Najm; the chief justice; the general mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; the president of the religious court of appeal; the mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and the secretary general of the Islamic Affairs, Holy Places, and Religious Trusts Ministry.

Hasan Defends Record in Aiding Palestinians

PM0211090589 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Oct 89 pp 22-24

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal of Jordan by Farid al-Khatib in Amman; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: There has been international information about the the restoration of Jordan's economic health. How has that been achieved in such a short time?

Prince Hasan: Undoubtedly Jordan's major asset is the economic efficiency by which it is characterized. But, regrettably, short memories are sometimes unfair to Jordan's achievements. In 1986 international establishments considered us one of the advanced among the developing states. But we faced debt difficulties and problems in 1988.

Debts are not an internal development or an economic problem confined to a particular country. They are not isolated from the reality of the region in which the country is located. There are three aspects which we must remember when talking about the political economy: The first aspect is Jordan's link to the Palestinian dimension—specifically, the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, an occupation which means Israel's control of some 1.5 million Palestinians. That occupation has made the market of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip—in terms of consumer goods—Israel's biggest market after the United States. The trade balance between them is in Israel's favor today, with a surplus totaling $5.6 billion. Furthermore, our deficit on trade with the occupied territories totals $1.1 billion. And if Jordan closes its bridges and abandons its economic and trade responsibilities with the kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, will Jordan be the state enjoying respect in its Arab environment, or will it be blamed for neglecting in one way or another the problems resulting from the occupation? The answer is very clear, but objective conditions show no mercy.

The Palestinian population in the occupied territories, among Palestine's Arabs, and in the other states hosting

the Palestinian people—including the Gulf states, Syria, and Lebanon—has increased 3.5 times. The Palestinian population in Jordan has increased 10.5 times, according to a study by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This was a surprise to me, because I never expected the U.S. Bureau of the Census to be interested in the Palestinian presence in the secondary places of residence. By the way, the latter figure is much lower than other circles predicted when they talked about "the alternative homeland." For our part, when we talk about the Palestinians in Jordan, we are actually talking about Jordanian citizens who share social and economic prospects with us. In fact they are producers and consumers.

And if we take the figure of 1,236,000 as representing the Palestinian population in Jordan according to that study, and if we say that over the past 20 years we have spent $10,000 on each person, we come out with a total of $12 billion—that is, double our foreign debt today. So who is going to reward us for spending more than $10,000 on each person? That sum represents electricity and water projects as well as various service projects and the process of creating job opportunities, of which we have provided over 200,000 over the past 20 years. Who is going to appreciate these constructive efforts?

In discussing the political economy, there are no conditions for pan-Arab duty or for the principled generosity from which we in Jordan are known to proceed.

Such figures reveal the story of Jordan's steadfastness in the face of the occupation. And when we talk about resolving financial errors and gaps, we find that Israel is a debtor state which is also engaged in a dialogue with the IMF with a view to rescheduling its debts. And it is no surprise to me to discover that Israel can raise the political economy, especially the development economy, with the IMF and cite the services offered to the inhabitants in the area under its control, considering them as one group. In fact it was rewarded for that by a sum exceeding $4.8 billion from the United States alone—in U.S. bonds, not bonds from Jewish organizations; and these bonds are 90-percent guaranteed.

So who will heal the gaps in the Jordanian economic structure if we cannot rely on our Arab brothers? Obviously the speed in finding a remedy depends on our Arab brothers' generosity and their profound esteem for the king's personality and Jordan's status.

But when I talk about the 1990's, I talk about our future in the light of the increase in the population and the threat which lies in Israel's present dialogue with the world's states concerning the Soviet Jews' emigration. And as you know, the Soviet Union has agreed to the emigration of some 200,000 Soviet Jews. There is talk of their emigrating to the United States, which refuses to accept more than 18,000 of them, and, at this stage, there are no intermediary states like Austria. So emigration to Israel will be at our expense, at the Jordanian citizen's expense, and, consequently, at the Palestinian citizen's expense. This is because the drain will continue from occupied Palestine, and at the same time we will continue to receive numbers of our sons residing abroad or working in fraternal Arab states.

So Jordan's problem is a very delicate political problem, since Jordan at this stage represents the last Arab gateway to occupied Arab Palestine. By collaborating with Jordan's economic and social requirements, an Arab state can gladly say that it has invested in the establishment of an economic and social barrier in the face of the Israeli political and security advance—an advance which is not confined to the practices inside but obviously aspires to expand its zone of influence at others' expense. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do the activities of the fundamentalists and the leftists during the election campaign cause you any concern?

Prince Hasan: I prefer to avoid answering this question. It is perhaps constitutionally improper to comment on the political forces engaged in the election campaign. I greatly hope that the various groups of Jordanian society will be treated fairly and that the House [of Representatives] will continue to follow the center line in the policies of moderation and balance that have characterized this country in the past.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the result of the next election will strengthen press freedom?

Prince Hasan: I believe that the press issue is linked to the press' firm desire to establish contemporary institutions in an atmosphere of active and objective work. The press wants to prove that Jordan, along the lines of some of the Arab states before us, has contemporary institutions. In my view, the cause and the improvisation are two conflicting demands. If freedom is a demand, let it be the founders' demand. In one of the Algerian Government's measures I noted the intention of abolishing the information ministry—an idea which is worth considering. If the information ministry is an idea which some European states adopted at one point, what is the alternative? Our answer is a free press, but it must be a responsible freedom.

My question to my brothers the journalists and newspaper owners has always been, and still is: Where are the editors? Where is the specialization? Where is the archive? Where is the memory which records events? Where is the ability to speak the world's languages? I really hope that we will move from the example of establishing a new institution for responsible dialogue—that is, parliament—to another example; namely, the establishment of an institution for the responsible text, that is, emphasizing the journalistic profession and our desire for more professionalism in that vital field. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Have you made contacts with the Syrian Government to prevent a repetition of the launch of fedayeen operations from Syria across Jordanian territory, which could provoke Israeli reprisals?

Prince Hasan: Attempts by armed organizations to embarrass us fall into a third circle [da'irah thalithah] outside the bilateral circle of relations between states and governments. The third circle can be described as being maintained in many relations between governments in the region and within the dialogue with the major states or the dialogue with fraternal and friendly states. What we know about these attempts is that they are attempts to cross Jordanian territory, which should be based on consultation, but pressure is continuing within the third circle, and political observers can clearly see that there is bargaining going on! [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It seems that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the person least eager to implement his election plan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Are you optimistic about the U.S. endeavor to contain that plan, so as to become acceptable to the Arabs?

Prince Hasan: I think that the points accentuated by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak—which president Yasir 'Arafat said do not constitute an Egyptian plan, and which also highlighted the need for a move within the framework of the Palestinian dimension, especially with regard to this sensitive stage in its life—these points deserve attention from the U.S. Administration, whose response was positive to the extent that it called for Egyptian-Israeli meetings. But what I fear most is that the Israeli Government's position is based on the letter of the plan— no to the Palestinian state; no land for peace; and no to many other issues, with the occupier resorting to security pretexts. The Israeli position may prove an unhealthy position, trying to embarrass the Arab and Palestinian sides while moving Israel from one framework to another. I believe that the initiative contained in the statements which we heard from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker a few months ago—that is, laying the responsibility where it should be, namely, on the occupier—must develop in the next few weeks. This is if there is to be any hope of containing the danger of expansion in the types of security now used inside and outside the Palestinian, Arab, and international arena.

Prince Receives U.S. Commander Schwarzkopf

JN0411174089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his office this morning the chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Schwarzkopf, and the delegation accompanying him. The chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force attended the meeting.

Prince Hasan discussed the situation in the region in general, pointing out that there are conflicts that threaten peace and security, such as the situation in Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran conflict, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Cabinet Meets, Approves Agreements, Programs

JN0511104489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Cabinet held a session last night under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir. During the session, ministers discussed a number of important topics. Later, Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali told newsmen that the Cabinet endorsed a loan agreement with the World Bank under which Jordan will receive a $150 million loan to support the balance of payments and finance Jordanian imports of capital, production, and basic commodities.

The loan is aimed at supporting the Jordanian program for developing and enhancing self-reliance through developing and diversifying exports to increase development and job opportunities. The loan also would develop efficiency and competitiveness for local industries and develop the necessary institutional framework for developing investment and encouraging exportation. Moreover, the loan is designed to protect the less fortunate social classes from the negative effects of this program. Al-Majali said that the program also is aimed at stimulating the law for the encouragement of investment and the steps related to organizing and rehabilitating projects to benefit from the privileges of this law.

The culture and informatiom minister added that the Cabinet approved the merger of the free zone and the industrial cities' corporations to increase their efficiency and develop their role in establishing the industry's infrastructure and promoting exportation.

Al-Majali added that the Cabinet approved two loan agreements with the Arab Social and Economic Development Fund and the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development. Under these agreements, each fund will grant Jordan 8 million Kuwaiti dinars to support the production process in the Electricity Authority and the Jordanian Phosphate Company through financing the needs of the Electricity Authority for the program of transportation, distribution, and maintenance necessary for maintaining electricity production. The Phosphate Company will provide the necessary material and equipment to increase productivity in the fertilizer factory and to provide the necessary means for the maintenance of mines. The funds provided by the loan will be reloaned to the Phosphate Company and the Electricity Authority under the same conditions applied to the government's loan. The term of the loan is 22 years including a 5-year grace period at a 4.5 percent interest rate.

Al-Majali added that the Cabinet approved a comprehensive study of the actual costs of importing medicine and the adoption of independent sources for information gathering. A committee will be formed to review the bases of medicine pricing so that a new method for costs depending on undisputable, clear bases will be adopted. The minister added that the committee will reduce the

cost of importing medicine by not less than 4.5 percent before adding the profits which were charged on a compound basis.

Al-Majali said that the Cabinet also discussed the study prepared by the ministerial committee on unemployment and support for the low-income groups. The study underlined the importance of tackling unemployment, giving priority to the unemployed through available work programs, following up on the economic rectification programs, and studying the best means of tackling unemployment. He added that the Cabinet approved in principle the establishment of a national relief fund in which all funds and institutions involved in the social field, especially in the private sector, will be merged to support production projects and grant easy loans for projects that provide job opportunities for those seeking employment.

Al-Majali also said that the study recommended the establishment of a company in the private sector to seek job opportunies in the Arabian Gulf states and the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states. The company will be established by the Social Security Corporation and the Jordanian Investment Corporation. The Cabinet will further examine the study on unemployment in its upcoming session.

Al-Qasim Lauds Election of Lebanese President

JN0511191989 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Jordan has welcomed the results of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies meeting today, which led to the election of His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad as president of the republic and the reelection of Husayn al-Husayni as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said it was natural to elect a president for the republic in order to implement the reforms contained in the document recently approved by the Lebanese deputies at al-Ta'if. This is within the framework of the Arab solution to the Lebanese problem and of supporting Lebanon while helping it overcome the crisis it has suffered for 14 years. Al-Qasim indicated that this solution has led to agreement on the al-Ta'if reforms document, according to which the Lebanese deputies' meeting was held. He stressed that this step is the first on the path that will guarantee a return to normalcy for Lebanon and affirm its ability to exercise sovereignty over all its territories.

Al-Qasim wished new Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad success in serving the fraternal Lebanese people and building constitutional state institutions so that Lebanon will return to what it was before the exacerbation of the crisis—an Arab, free, and independent master.

Al-Majali Discusses Elections, Peace Process

JN0211105989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 34

[Interview with Nasuh al-Majali, Jordan's culture and information minister, by Wa'il Bajis; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Bajis] What is your view on Israel's rejection of the Palestinian peace initiative?

[Al-Majali] Israel proposed the elections plan from the beginning with the aim of bypassing international concern for the rights of the Palestinian people, who had drawn world attention in the wake of the intifadah. Through these elections, Israel wanted to find representatives to handle the complicated situation inside the occupied territories and end the intifadah. Hence, the Israeli proposal does not mean peace on the basis of self-determination, withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and identity. It is a proposal to deal with the issue of Israeli subjects living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Therefore, the Israeli position is internally consistent because it basically rejects the idea of the existence of an identity for the Palestinian people and rejects the principle of dividing the land or bartering the land for peace.

[Bajis] Do you believe the Egyptian points can reconcile the two contradictory positions, Palestinian and Israeli?

[Al-Majali] The 10 questions raised by Mubarak are not a plan, but an attempt to bridge the gap between the different concepts of the Palestinians and Israelis. They also constitute an attempt to explore Israel's seriousness in accepting peace and to link the outcome of the talks and the fate of the territory and the Palestinians' rights. Hence, this position was expected to meet with Israeli intransigence which rejects most of the basic concepts that the 10 points regulate, the most important of which is to barter land for peace and to rely on international legitimacy in the international conference.

[Bajis] How do you assess the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue? Do you believe it will help facilitate the peace process?

[Al-Majali] First, the presence of a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is better than its absence. The important thing is how this dialogue can be employed and how to influence the American stand through U.S. and world public opinion, and the Arab position.

So far, the dialogue on the part of the United States is still entrenched in the Israeli concept on elections and comes nowhere near the concept of self-determination for a people struggling under occupation. The five U.S. points proposed by Secretary of State Baker aim to establish a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue around the Israeli idea of elections. But elections for what? This is the question that the United States still refuses to answer because of its commitment to the Israeli stance.

[Bajis] With the current parliamentary elections, the political situation in Jordan is undergoing a new stage. Do you think the elections will help promote democratic inclinations in Jordan? Is it possible to form new parties? And what are the banned parties?

[Al-Majali] It should be mentioned at the outset that the elections, which come after about 25 years of suspension, were directly ordered by King Husayn after the disengagement from the West Bank in 1988. This disengagement provided the objective conditions for the return of parliamentary life to Jordan without embarrassment or fear that we are renouncing the West Bank, whose status before the disengagement, as part of Jordan under occupation, prevented the holding of parliamentary elections.

We are looking forward to the return of parliamentary life, which will be a responsible return. The participation of the people, through their representatives, in running public affairs and directing public life will bring constitutional life in the country full circle.

Certainly, we expect democratic inclinations, desired by King Husayn, to prevail in public life—inside and outside the parliament. We expect popular participation to open powerful channels for promoting national performance. This stage has witnessed a qualitative jump with regard to freedom of expression through the press and other mass media. The upcoming stages will also witness the institutionalization of a sound methodology for democratic and free expression in all fields. In terms of parties, there will be no return of the old parties in their alien form. We are now talking about national parties born from the womb of legitimacy, from the aspirations of the Jordanian people, and from the overall ambitions of the national charter, which will be the bottom line of national consensus on public issues. There might be room for national and pan-Arab Jordanian parties, but everything will be known in due course. [passage omitted]

[Bajis] What is the Jordanian Government's position on the current elections, and how true are reports that it will interfere in the election process?

[Al-Majali] The elections are an open letter to all Jordanians. They will be free, honest, and democratic to the utmost. The candidates will also be able to supervise the process throughout all its stages. Votes will be sorted out in all election districts. Those who try to cast doubts on these facts are either hurt by these facts or trying to justify in advance their failure to win the people's confidence. We will give the world around us a bright example of the honesty of election management and results, and of a healthy climate. It is a trust and a responsibility that King Husayn wants this country to achieve within this framework.

Ibn-Shakir Receives British Defense Official

JN0411155289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 4 Nov (PETRA)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning Alan Thomas, director of the British foreign defense services [name and title as received], and the accompanying delegation in the presence of Finance Minister Basil Jardanah.

Relations between Jordan and Britain and ways of improving them to the best advantages of both countries were discussed during the meeting.

Soviet Envoy on Tarasov Visit, Peace Deadlock

JN0411082589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Ghadir Tahir and P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff writers]

[Excerpt] Amman—Recent remarks by a senior Soviet official that an American formula for Middle East peace talks was worth considering do not indicate any change in Moscow's firm belief that an international peace conference is the best forum to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

"Our position remains unchanged," said Ambassador Aleksandr Zinchuk. "We are open to all options and means to arrive at a peace settlement (in the Middle East) through an international conference," he said.

The ambassador was answering a JORDAN TIMES question on a recent statement by special Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov, who visited Cairo last week, that a five-point proposal tabled by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as well as other suggestions were "worth discussing." The statement was interpreted by analysts as indicating a "new Soviet flexibility" in Middle East peace efforts since the Baker formula does not refer to an international conference, an idea firmly advocated by the Kremlin.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Zinchuk affirmed that Moscow was trying to break the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts and said Soviet consideration of any suggestion or proposal from any quarters should be seen strictly within this context.

According to the ambassador, Moscow is still nursing its proposal for a preparatory meeting of the main parties involved in the Middle East conflict—the PLO, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel—to pave the way for a U.N.-sponsored peace conference. "The proposal, tabled by (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze during his visit to the Middle East earlier this year, is still alive," he said. "Some of the parties expressed reservations over the proposal at that time, but now there seems to be some changes," he added.

Moscow believes that its proposal is one of the options available to the Arabs as well as other parties to end the stalemate in peace efforts, Zinchuk said.

"We are also hoping to advance our efforts in talks with (Israeli Deputy Prime Minister) Shim'on Peres when he visits Moscow" in December, he added. Although Peres will not be visiting the Soviet Union as a guest of the government, "it is possible that high-level officials, including Shevardnadze, will hold talks with" the Israeli Labour Party leader, the ambassador said.

He doubted whether Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would meet with Peres, whose visit comes in response to an invitation from a Soviet peace committee.

In any event, Zinchuk added, "neither the Soviet Union nor the U.S. can be expected to produce a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict; it is the responsibility of the parties directly involved. We are here to help."

At the same time, he agreed that as long as Israel refuses to relinquish occupied territory there could not be any meaningful advance in peace efforts. Moscow hopes the Israeli government "will adopt a more realistic position," he said. However, he also expressed the opinion that the Israeli rightists' rejection of any return of occupied land was "a bargaining position... since they know that they will have to make concessions if durable peace is to be achieved."

Conceding that chances for solid progress in peace efforts were dim as long as the present rightist-dominated coalition government remains in power in Israel, the ambassador said it was up to the Israeli electorate to choose their government and decide whether they want peace.

Peres has confirmed that he would go to the Soviet Union in December, the first visit there by an Israeli minister since Moscow severed relations with Israel in 1967.

Moscow has gradually restored some of the links severed with Israel in 1967 exchanging consular delegations and raising media speculation that it was moving towards restoring formal ties. But, Zinchuk stressed that the fundamental Soviet stand that restoration of ties with Israel is contingent on a just and durable Middle East peace settlement.

Zinchuk said that economic relations would be high on the agenda for Peres, who is also finance minister. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Holds News Conference 3 Nov

NC0311162889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1318 GMT 3 Nov 89

[News conference held by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn at B'abda Palace—live]

[Text] ['Awn] You are welcome as always. Naturally, events are successively taking place in a very important way but a new event does not overtake the preceding event. Therefore, there is an accumulation of events. We are still at the core of the issue—the al-Ta'if plan and the results of the al-Ta'if agreement on Lebanon and the region. As we expected, there is an attempt to hijack this solution. The deputies were taught—we regrettably use this expression—in al-Ta'if to follow a given route, like a hijacked plane which lands at an airport, fills up with fuel, and then takes off to land at another airport. Then they are taken to a hotel and then away from it by their sponsors who banned their movement.

Naturally, I reject only one clause which I cannot accept. This clause pertains to Lebanese sovereignty. We have accepted the al-Ta'if plan, which is mainly a cease-fire plan. We accepted it, abided in peace, and committed ourselves to the reforms despite their many defects. We announced that we will accept any other plan to get together and reach an understanding. We said that the only thing we cannot do is to give up sovereignty. They [not further identified] said that Gen 'Awn rejects the agreement.

It appears that there are attempts to concentrate on Gen 'Awn and to claim that he rejects the agreement. I know that I have no power to relinqish Lebanese sovereignty, and that by my stand, I represent the inclination of the Lebanese people with all their factions. In this stand, I not only represent the Christians who reside in the free area but also represent all the Lebanese in all areas. I wish one of the states would publish the information available to it on this subject—the Lebanese commitment to sovereignty, their independence, and unity of their homeland.

Therefore, we absolutely did not reject the agreement. On the contrary, we accepted it. However, they concentrated only on the issue of not making a gift of sovereignty. After explaining this issue, there is another issue which I believe needs clarification. When I addressed the demonstrators, I asked the deputies to come back and I guaranteed their safety and freedom. I also promised to put the official media at their disposal.

Naturally, the private media usually approach every author of a plan who talks politics in order to cover the news. I guaranteed not to restrict their freedom even by the Lebanese people who were demonstrating against what the deputies had done in al-Ta'if. I believe I undertook a big risk in the face of this big crowd, which exceeded 100,000 and which had come by the tens of thousands to demonstrate.

I took this risk because it is difficult to protect one person against an angry people. I have asked them to come back and face the demonstrators to emphasize my commitment to freedom and democracy and to assert that they must come back to face their people here and explain to them what they did in al-Ta'if. I finally said that if they do not come, it is because they feel guilty and want to avoid facing the Lebanese people. I added that under the circumstances, they must be prosecuted and punished.

The media say that Gen 'Awn wants to prosecute and punish the deputies. It is disgraceful for any media, particularly if they are internationally reputable, to mislead their public and governments by disseminating fabricated news. We are passing through a fateful crisis; therefore, the report should be given out in its entirety. Some news agencies were sincere and honest, but regrettably a major part of the news agencies have reported only the prosecution of deputies.

We have often explained our stand and repeatedly invited the deputies to return so that we can hold negotiations and explain the situation. But they failed to respond. We even had intensive talks with his beatitude the patriarch, several bishops, former President Charles Hilu and all those who seek the well-being of Lebanon to salvage the situation. I sent personal invitations through Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk in Paris to all the deputies to return to Beirut and explain their position and tell us what is going on.

It is unacceptable to appoint a president who is even unknown to them. Neither the Lebanese people nor the deputies know who the president is and the Chamber's session is supposed to be held in 24 hours. When they [deputies] go to the Chamber, they will be handed a piece of paper. It is regrettable that we have reached this point.

A rumor was disseminated yesterday to the effect that Gen 'Awn refuses to talk with the deputies. I do not know what or who is responsible for such rumors. Therefore, I repeat my words and tell the deputies that they are welcome here for negotiations because we are passing through a fateful crisis which should not reach the point of no return either through their attempt to elect a president of the Republic or through their bid to place us before this option.

Before all the media, I tell them not to commit this last grave error. I ask them not to come to the Chamber of Deputies session and to take their time until we can reach an agreement on the coming stage. It is unacceptable to kidnap a homeland and hold it hostage, sometimes in the Royal Monceal in Paris, in the bus in Jeddah, and at other times in the railroad in Algiers. This is a historical disgrace for every Lebanese who accepted it and for every deputy who contributed to this step.

May I repeat that it is a major historical disgrace for the deputies to participate in this process. The ambiguity of the prevailing circumstances surrounding their work will end and the proceedings of the despicable events in al-Ta'if and other places will be recorded on a historical

page. I appeal to all the world governments and heads of state not to support the al-Ta'if agreement because if they investigate it from a political point of view they might find the beginning of a solution, but if they investigate it from the legal and judicial point of view they will find it a deed of capitulation.

Therefore, I call on all the world leaders and governments not to support the al-Ta'if document. Those who have voiced their backing for al-Ta'if should read the document again and understand that what they are doing is tantamount to striking a homeland from the map and smothering the will of its people.

I call, first and foremost, on the United States, on the American people, on friendly nations, and on all European countries who know the meaning of freedom, democracy, free will, and human values, not to press for a quick decision.

I know that these countries have their own interests, but there are limits to these interests, and these interests are now at odds with the rights of the people in such a torn country as Lebanon.

The public made its opinion known. Since we were notified of the al-Ta'if agreement and we have asked all the people, the officials, and those concerned to come out and speak their mind. All have spoken; some have defended the al-Ta'if document. All the private and official media in Lebanon were completely free to give honest coverage to all these views. We, as public officials, have been more careful to protect freedoms than some of the private media organs—the same organs who had always expressed fears that Gen 'Awn's military government will threaten freedom.

There had been certain misgivings in and outside of Lebanon over the presence of officers in our government. The common belief is that the military, once in power, abolishes freedoms and declares a state of emergency.

We have noticed of late, during and after the al-Ta'if conference, that the private media organs were censuring the statements of Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn, partly or completely blocking his statements, and broadcasting the opinions of his adversaries, including those of the Syrians and the de facto and illegal [Dr Salim al-Huss'] government of the occupation. I believe that the people are intelligent enough to know to which media I am referring.

Despite all that, Gen 'Awn had enough patience; the patience of the honorable citizen who accepts the supervision when it comes from the people. I believe in the people and accept their judgment. I trust in the people's intelligence and intellect. The people have the awareness to distinguish between good and evil, between truth and lies, between statements and hearsay, and so on and so forth.

Why should the Lebanese people today accept the al-Ta'if agreement, after these long years in which they rejected agreements easier than that of al-Ta'if? The al-Ta'if agreement is worse than the tripartite agreement. How could we accept the al-Ta'if agreement after having glorified rejection of the tripartite agreement? We were not militarily defeated and had to accept it. We were not put under siege to accept it. Who said we have lost the freedom to reject or accept? Why should we be so eager to pick up the leftovers after the al-Ta'if conference? The al-Ta'if conference succeeded in a single thing: it returned the political struggle to the free arena and turned this arena into one of political struggle over the agreement, after the war had been one of liberation against the Syrian occupation.

Let me stress to you today that our struggle with the Syrian occupier is still under way. What we reject in the al-Ta'if agreement is the part that consecrates this occupation. We are not in a conflict with the church, absolutely not. It is the church that leads the revolutions worldwide to liberate the world, and it cannot stand in conflict with what is happening in Lebanon. We stand with the church in the same trench.

We are not in a conflict with any Lebanese party, not with the Phalangist Party, absolutely. We are not in a conflict with any Lebanese deputy, not even with the Phalangist Party leader. We are in a conflict with him [as heard] because he agreed to the results of the al-Ta'if conference. Any claims that I gave my approval and then later voiced my rejection on the telephone with the deputies are false. I did not want to talk about the issue of the al-Ta'if agreement on the telephone.

You all know that the cause of a homeland cannot be debated on the telephone, with all the countries and organizations of the world listening to what is happening in the talks. I asked several times for an envoy to come here, but no envoy came to discuss the matter with us. The replies were brief and by proxy, and some of the time the answer was no; we must not agree. Not one of the replies I gave in any of the rare contacts I made gave a hint that we should say yes to anything.

There was one point that I demanded from them and reiterated it; namely, that reforms be linked to the withdrawal. As we saw in the clause dealing with reforms—the so-called reforms because I do not know if they are reforms or not—the changes made put all the authority in the hands of the prime minister and the cabinet, thus transferring the power from the Christian Maronite president to the Muslim cabinet situated in the Syrian-occupied area. So we said we do not mind if the authority is transferred to the Muslims and the cabinet, since this is an inter-Lebanese and domestic issue.

But for the authority to be transferred to an occupied area is unacceptable. Therefore, this authority must not be transferred before the withdrawal and the liberation of that area.

There is another clause. This clause pertains to the equal sharing of the first grade posts and the abolition of job sectarianism. In other words, the Army's command,

which traditionally was assigned to the Christian Maronites will be transferred to the Muslims and to the occupied area at some stage. All security organs will operate under the charge of the prime minister in the occupied area during the transitional period.

All the powers will be transferred. The authority to conclude treaties will be transferred from the president of the Republic to the prime minister and council of ministers in the occupied area. The distinguished bilateral agreements will be concluded there. You are well aware of the distinguished agreements, a sample of which is the tripartite agreement.

All this will be done during the Syrian occupation. In other words, there is a legal usurpation, endorsed by Lebanon, of Lebanese territory and sovereignty through legal agreements which annul the support and guarantees we received equally from His Majesty King Fahd or in the statement of the five permanent members of the Security Council. All these guarantees will become a delusion if the al-Ta'if agreement is not implemented. This is why we make our reservation and insist on it. We advocate sovereignty for the land until we know who will practice the authority.

The situation at this stage is similar to the position of Petain and that of De Gaulle. It is similar to the position of De Gaulle in free France and that of Petain under the [Nazi] occupation. I believe that Petain was more popular than De Gaulle in France. However, Petain gave away everything and violated the Constitution. History records what happened and we are in no position to reiterate all that happened.

Therefore, we oppose the implementation of the agreement under the circumstances of the occupation. There is something important. It has been Syrian practice since 1976 to create a problem and fabricate the events at the palace whenever time for the departure of the deterrent forces from Beirut approached or their term was about to end in order to prove to the world that Lebanon needs them to maintain security. Who can tell me now what guarantee will there be after 1 year, 10 months, if not after every 6 months? There are daily problems between Hizballah and Amal. They create problems every day to justify their continued presence here.

We are demanding an agreement, the guarantee of which is its own mechanism or the way of its implementation. We will implement no agreement if such a guarantee is not part of it. Thus we will be making a positive contribution in an assured way and not giving in to stand powerless with spectators who watch events on the soil of our homeland. We reject the logic of take or break [last three words in English] as they termed it in Saudi Arabia. They told them [the deputies]: Either sign the agreement or leave it. They came to the security document and said: Either accept the security document or leave it. They say now: Either elect a president or do not elect him, etc.

Such reasoning is not logical. Where are the democratic countries of the world? What great farce are you showing us? I again remind the Lebanese people that long ago they advised the Armenians to lay down their arms. When they did, they massacred them. They advised us to accept the Ottoman army. When the Ottoman army came, it massacred us. It is not possible to accept the advice that we should leave ourselves in the hands of butchers. We reject the logic of the wolf and the lamb: Whatever you do, I will eat you. We will not be lambs. We will not be lambs and we will defend ourselves. We are not ferocious beasts but at least we have the legitimate right to self-defense.

The Lebanese people are urged today to express yet again their position after they have heard all these explanations and stands. This is so because the explanations I have heard are based on two points: fear or impotence. I again say to the Lebanese people: We cannot relinquish our rights just because we have people who are afraid and people who are unable to attain the best.

On the other hand we have people who are neither afraid nor impotent. I say if it is inevitable to give up Lebanon, let it happen through something honorable, not by a signature, whether this signature gives over rights directly, or gradually and indirectly, in a manner that gives everyone the chance to seek an excuse or justification and place responsibility for the concession on his neighbor. We know where this agreement will lead and for this reason, we ask for a reconsideration and for postponing the elections so that a manner of implementation can be agreed upon that is guaranteed and honest to all Lebanese.

I urge the Lebanese people again, this time more strongly, to express again today their stand because others are playing with Lebanon's destiny. Before, we would demonstrate for the price of a movie ticket, for the smallest thing. We used to demonstrate for the sake of the Philippines and Vietnam. It behooves us today to express a stand emphasizing that our fate cannot be so lightly manipulated by anyone.

At this fateful juncture, my Lebanon deserves a clear and intensified stand. If it is not clear and intensified, anyone will be able to manipulate us. Today, this stand must be based on convictions, not on fear of the consequences. We will bear the consequences. If we fail, we will again be caught up in the al-Ta'if agreement. This will be the big loss. [applause] Now I will answer questions.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, the papers today report that Ambassador al-Turk has conveyed Gen 'Awn's intention to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies if the deputies fail to return to Beirut. How true are these reports?

['Awn] I want to explain a point. The questions always contain errors. I do not know why this happens although I speak clearly when I talk to you. [laughter] You should therefore record all the proceedings. The issue of dissolving the Chamber has been under discussion from the beginning. It is one of the legitimate solutions which is part of the government's jurisdictions. In the event of a

conflict between the chamber of deputies and the government, the government can dissolve the Chamber of Deputies with a decree giving the reasons. We might resort to this step very shortly and the deputies will shoulder the responsibility, because I have invited the deputies for a televised dialogue in front of you and in front of the Lebanese people [applause]. After the dialogue I will congratulate he who dares—and I am not making any threats here—to elect a president of the Republic under the current circumstances. I will guarantee protection for him. Do you still need a freer atmosphere? I pledge this before you and the entire world. Let them come here and we will hold a dialogue with them.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Excellency. You have assured us psychologically, because we were of the opinion that the Chamber would be dissolved at this moment. You have undoubtedly given the Lebanese another chance to heave a sigh of relief. Let me read out my question. As for Chamber Speaker al-Husayni's call for convening the Chamber, is it legitimate and constitutional since he is no longer the Chamber speaker? What legal information does your excellency have on this particular point?

['Awn] I regret to say that Speaker al-Husayni is acting as if he is dealing with a tribal issue. First of all, he is not the Chamber speaker. This is the first violation that he has personally done. He acquired a post illegally. Second, the Chamber of Deputies has changed to an electoral body since 13 September 1988 according to our Constitution.

Also, the presidential elections should take place before the Chamber elections and, consequently, the Chamber must first elect the president of the Republic. The Chamber of Deputies cannot embark on anything else before this step. There were times when they held more than one session, a sort of a comical movie. Nothing was mentioned in the Casablanca resolutions.

I will now tell you what kind of nonsense prevailed during the negotiations. They will first elect a president of the Republic. They will then rest and later they would prepare for the elections of the Chamber speaker and the Chamber's office staff. Afterward they cannot vote on a document. [sentences as heard] We agreed that they will try to rectify mistakes made by the kings and presidents out of their ignorance of the Lebanese Constitution and how constitutional procedures take place in Lebanon. They cannot ratify a document. They are not empowered to ratify the document.

The same document shows that the legislative authority is transgressing the powers of the executive authority over the section pertaining to Syria regarding the president of the Republic. According to Article 52 of the Constitution, the president can deal with Lebanese-Syrian affairs. The president can present this issue to the Chamber if he so wishes.

They must amend the Constitution first and then draft plans, which must be signed by 10 deputies—I do not know the exact stipulation—and then submit them to the government. The government will then turn them into draft laws and return them. They will thus follow Lebanese constitutional procedure. They turned the Constitution, which is considered sacred, into a dustcloth. To a good citizen, the Constitution is second only to his prayer book. This is not right. They speak in the name of the Constitution at certain times and they turn it into a mountain at others in order to interpretate things the way they want. These are hypocrises. The session which Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has called for is considered null and void.

[Reporter] Who is entitled to do so in your opinion?

['Awn] We will see. We will look at the provisions to see who can convene this session. It could be the senior deputy or the government. We will see. We do not want to transgress the powers of anyone.

[Reporter] Undoubtedly the results of what you did today will have very positive results on public opinion which actually expected [word indistinct]. Does the positive stand which emerged at this gathering set a limited period for the deputies to respond? In other words, is it limited to a specific period or is it open? This is a very important thing.

['Awn] There is nothing so far to indicate that they have come to a dead end. This is depite the fact that I received information yesterday to the effect that when they [the Syrians] learned that deputies Kazim al-Khalil and George Sa'adah were coming back, Khaddam contacted them and told them: Stay at the hotel and do not leave it. He ordered them from a distance, from Damascus to Paris. Imagine how secure their freedom will be here. They could not come. Today it was reported that Dr George Sa'adah might come back. We hope he will come back, but what will he bring with him? Is he authorized by the deputies or is he coming to find out if the game can be implemented? I hope he will come empowered to discuss a specific issue.

[Reporter] Regardless of the conditions and circumstances of tomorrow's session, what are Gen 'Awn's expectations?

['Awn] We are dealing with maneuvering people. They often express a desire but act to the contrary. They are maneuvering. We are watching to see the real purpose of the current maneuvers. If what they are maneuvering for becomes a reality, then the weapon to be used is ready. There is room for understanding. Let them postpone the elections. I say let them postpone them for a reasonable period so that we may be able to meet and reach an understanding as humans and not over the telephone enabling all the world intelligence organs to hear us. Anyone can tap the telephone. You wouldn't know if he is in Cyprus, al-Najmah square, or any other telephone central. We check for bugs when we meet here in order to remove them.

These sophisticated means are connected with the homeland's security and safety and its future. Therefore, the discussions must be held in a quiet and safe place and they need a little time. If it is a question of protocol, then you [the deputies] accepted it and went to al-Ta'if. You also went to Jeddah. The question is not one of giving away a homeland because of a little additional hospitality. We say no because the homeland is not our property.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, will you be satisfied if a committee of two or three deputies comes from Paris or do you still want all the deputies now in Paris to return so that you can talk with them?

['Awn] If they represent everyone and if they are assigned by everyone, it does not make a difference, but I do not want to waste time talking with one or two of them. If they represent everyone, it will be all right. In the past we suggested to them that a committee of deputies should go to al-Ta'if, but they disagreed, saying that each deputy will represent himself. We hope that all of them will come and keep their positions, because each one is representing himself, particularly on the issue of the elections. So tricks in this matter will not be acceptable, let that be clear to everyone.

[Reporter] Is there a possibility that you will send a delegation to them?

['Awn] No, no way. It is not a business deal.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, why do you think Deputies George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil have decided not to come to Lebanon, considering that they had assured you and former President Hilu that they would?

['Awn] To be clear, Syrian Vice President Khaddam interfered and prevented them from coming. They have to get permission. Some other deputies in West Beirut were visited by their own sons and were requested to come, but they refused. So the matter has reached the point of a personal dispute within the same family. For some time they have been saying that the decision is not in their hands. They used the issue of their fear to return as a pretext to cover their subservience to outside forces. This is the story which has become clear to everybody.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you referred a short while ago to the constitutional violations committed by former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. Did the deputies violate the Constitution as well, and how?

['Awn] They violated the Constitution many times, by committing themselves to a document that breached Lebanon's sovereignty and legitimized the occupation. There are many such violations, but I am not going to discuss it from the legal point of view because they will be remedied by other documents. So I mentioned a breach of Article 58 of the Constitution and I mentioned legitimizing the Syrian occupation for an unspecified period of time, meaning a recognition of what happened before and legitimization of things to come.

[Reporter] Let us return to the core of the matter. You are accused, or it has been said, that you invited the deputies to the eastern area in order to prevent a quorum [at parliamentary session] after the necessary quorum had been detained abroad. What is the truth of such statements?

['Awn] I am not the one who is detaining them. They [not further specified] are the ones who are preventing them. How can one deny what he sees with his own eyes and believe what is being put in his ears? What do you see? Who is holding whom? They are the ones being prevened from coming. Why should I be accused of preventing them?

Another thing: Gen 'Awn has been in charge of Lebanon with his military ministers for 13 months, during which not a single one was harassed because of his political thought, no one was put under surveillance—on the contrary we were the ones under surveillance—and no one's freedom was violated.

Everyone has a record. To those who accuse me of preventing them, I say you have been doing exactly the same thing all your life. Why do you think all the Lebanese people responded with such zeal when we started talking? Because we respected them as human beings and as a people and asked them to be aware and exercise their freedom, which they did. Someone asked: Where are all these people coming from and who sent them? The question was asked to cast doubts, as if the authority were behind that turnout. But he who asked this question forgot that the Lebanese people have broken free of pressure and are defending what they believe is right and correct.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, it is being said that the solution is directed against Gen Michel 'Awn and therefore Gen 'Awn is opposed to the elections and to the al-Ta'if document. Is this true?

['Awn] As I said: The issue is Lebanon, not me. Not once have I agreed to discuss my personal future. Only God knows about the offers made in this respect, and many were made. I have been placed in charge of a constitutional power. This power was handed over to me by a sworn president, and I have to preserve this power until I hand it over undiminished.

This is my only worry, now and later. For I may not be able to resolve the current crisis. This problem existed before me. So, how can I be seen as the source of this problem? This will take us back to the story of the lamb and the fox. I have not muddied the water for you, my brother, for I was not around last year. I was only around this year. The Syrian-Lebanese problem predates me and you. Today, I embody the firm Lebanese position that opposes the capitulation of the country. That is all. This is important.

[Reporter] There is a weak point, if you allow me, in your reasoning, Mr Prime Minister. The deputies and the Arab League have prepared the al-Ta'if document.

Meanwhile, you have not so far given an alternative to al-Ta'if. Can you tell us the alternative and what is your final position on al-Ta'if?

['Awn] What is the alternative? All our stands do not amount to an alternative. How is that? Is it either I give Lebanon up or there is no alternative? The alternative is that they leave Lebanon. What else do you think the alternative is? [applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, despite all the warnings and caveats, if the parliamentary session takes place and the elections are held tomorrow, how would you react?

['Awn] Matters will not go that far. We will make a certain move, a move that you know. Before the session is held, if there are sure signs that the deputies are going to attend that session, the Chamber of Deputies will be dissolved. [applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what if such a move were seen as unconstitutional? Some deputies and law men are engaged in legal studies of this point. In the past, Dr Salim al-Huss' government insisted on staying in office under the pretext that it is the lawful government and declined to recognize the constitutional government. In that event, how would you react?

['Awn] Well, this is the moment of truth. From now on you will have to decide for yourself if God exists or not. You can say: I cannot see America, therefore it does not exist. And you can imagine its existence and say that it exists. As for me, I have fewer options. I have clear documents to go by. I have to exercise the power of the constitutional government. Those who want to back us may do so. Those who do not are free to do so. As for us, we know what we stand for and we know the constitutional clauses which we have to honor.

[Reporter] Let's return to the story of the lamb and the fox. Some say that Gen 'Awn is the white lamb in a black political flock. [laughter] You have accepted the seven-point statement [by the Arab tripartite committee] and approved of the deputies' departure for the al-Ta'if talks. Have you taken any precautionary measures that would enable you to block the elections and the al-Ta'if agreements? And, what are these measures?

['Awn] As for accepting the seven points, I remind you that the sixth point is the most crucial. This is the clause that suggests that the deputies engage in the preparation of a blueprint for reforms. This clause was not respected in the least. Not even the position of Lakhdar Ibrahimi was respected. Ibrahimi has said that the accord document was not a sacred document and can be amended. As soon as deputies arrived in al-Ta'if, they were told: take or break [last three words in English]. This is not a proper attitude in negotiations. The sixth point was not respected. Nothing was respected up to the point where the accord document was signed.

They alleged that they were transferring them to al-Ta'if to free them from pressures. We have discovered that the greatest possible pressure was exerted on them there. They told them they should accept or there would be a return to war. Everyone told me so also: Either you accept this agreement or there will be a return to war. Which pressure is stronger on the deputies: Gen 'Awn's pressure, the pressure that the people over there were exerting, or the pressure of war. Indeed, we are witnessing a farce [laughs] on a regional level in which everyone is participating. They are giving it some sort of formal production and some sort of halo.

[Reporter] It is being said that if the session is not held in Mansur Palace for security reasons, then it is possible to hold it in the Central Bank of Lebanon.

['Awn] This is the best thing, the Central Bank—paying in cash. [laughter]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, is anyone talking with you about reaching a certain settlement regarding a future president who will be able to implement the sovereignty clause in the al-Ta'if agreement with which you were not satisfied?

['Awn] No, sir. Contempt is being shown to the Lebanese people. There are regional and international personalities who are arrogant and dictatorial and who regard us as minors and they want to impose this agreement on us and to tell us: Go and implement it. They entrust it to a few individuals [words indistinct] thinking that they will be able to implement the solution. I am telling you this is unacceptable. We are a free people. We are nobler as a nation than those who profess to be the defenders of liberties in the world. Our freedom is 6,000 years old. Here we have the cradle of the celestial religions. The Lebanese civilization lies at the core of all civilizations, Roman, Greek, Byzantine, and Arab. We in Lebanon are at the heart of all civilizations. Still they profess to want to teach democracy to us. We know more than they do and practiced liberty before they did. Hence, we do not accept solutions imposed upon us as if we were a flock of sheep. [applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the Syrians have declared that if the al-Ta'if agreement is not implemented, this will mean a return to fighting. Does your rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement mean a return to fighting?

['Awn] Absolutely not, no return to fighting. Does the free world, which supports the al-Ta'if agreement and believes it contains some positive aspects, deny the right of peoples to say yes or no to an issue connected with their fate? How can the world be free and defend the rights of nations and human rights when it denies my right to peacefully accept or reject? I said at a previous news conference and I repeat now: Let them consider me part of the Syrian people—there is no longer a Lebanese Republic, brother—and regard me as fighting the unjust Syrian regime. Will they not recognize me as a liberation organization? Do I not have the right to fight in order to change this regime? [applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, there has been a lot of talk that there is French support behind Gen 'Awn's hardline stand in rejecting the al-Ta'if agreement. What are the outlines of this French stand?

['Awn] No country is involved in my stand. Formerly, they said Iraq was involved. Now they are saying France. No country is exerting pressures on us, either negatively...[does not complete sentence] Let people see that there is negative pressure on us. They want us to make concessions. No one is exerting positive pressure on us. We hope there was such pressure.

[Reporter] It has been reported that Jean-Francois Deniau came to Lebanon secretly and met with you at the B'abda Palace last week. Is this true and what did you discuss?

['Awn] No one visited me secretly. All visits to me are in the open. Some people visited me but I did not see Deniau. People other than Deniau came to see me.

[Reporter] What was the object of lodging a complaint with the Security Council against the Syrian and Israeli occupations, particularly the timing of the complaint this week?

['Awn] This is a very important thing. First, it is a linkage of dispute in the aftermath of al-Ta'if so that no one should believe that we accept the al-Ta'if agreement which consecrates the Syrian presence and indefinitely postpones the issue of the Israeli occupation. Therefore, we linked the dispute by lodging a complaint without calling the Security Council to convene under these circumstances, because when you invite the Security Council to convene, you must provide better conditions for success. Therefore we linked only the dispute.

[Reporter] It has been noticed recently that there is some softness in your stands vis-a-vis the U.S. Administration. Could we know the reason?

['Awn] You know that a few days ago last week, I was visited by Congressmen [previous word in English] Mary Rose Oakar and Nick Rahall. We discussed the current situation. At any rate, they were not official envoys. I believe that they will relay the real situation they saw here. This visit has already produced some results, perhaps. However, the main thing is that there have been new changes on the ground. All the statements I made, whether they were harsh or soft, included a greeting to the American people. This is an established and permanent fact in my capacity as a lover of freedom. Now that we have explained the differences which existed between us and the U.S. Administration, and following these developments and changes, I say with deep respect to the free principles in which our people and those of the United States believe, that nothing prevents us from showing more softness if the U.S. Administration is harmonious with these principles. We have no permanent dispute. As I have always said, we would like the U.S. Administration to be harmonious with its principles and with the reality we are living. I expect good things.

[Reporter] Some say that those on whom Gen 'Awn depended are no longer there. We know that Gen 'Awn depends on his free decision. After the internal shock by some leaderships at home, some ask, upon whom does Gen 'Awn depend? He depends on the people and the Army. What do you say to the people and the Army?

['Awn] What I said earlier, perhaps indirectly, is that I have no problems with anyone. I have no problems with the parties or the Armed Forces or anybody else. I met with Army officers at 1300 today. I gave them directions telling them: Be alert. There are areas you will have to defend. Turn your back. No one will shoot you in the back despite the many rumors because you are defending the freedom and independence of the areas. If someone shoots you in the back, God forbid, do not fire back. Do not use the weapons. It would be God's will that the blow should come from the back. I do not see that I am in a feeble or weak position. On the contrary, the people must be more united because we are in a state of danger and the danger unites and does not divide.

Furthermore, no one fights in order to surrender. One fights in order to remain free. Who will raise a rifle against the Army which rejects surrender? Who will shoot at the Army in order to go then and surrender to the Syrian? The roads are open. Let him go and surrender without endangering his life and the life of the Army. He who does not like life here and finds security in the other area, let him go there and confront me. He will secure himself and I will secure myself. In this way we will fight each other on equal terms. [applause]

[Reporter] Your Excellency General, we have heard that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is boasting to reporters in Tunis that his relationship with you is very good and he supports your rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement. The question is: What is your assessment of Abu-'Ammar's stand on Lebanese sovereignty?

['Awn] I have not been informed of this stand so that I may comment on it. I cannot comment on journalistic assumptions. I cannot comment on a stand conveyed in this manner. When he adopts a formal stand and informs me of it, or when I hear it in the media, then I will be able to respond to it.

[Reporter] In the event a president is elected tomorrow, which is considered probable, and all permanent members of the UN Security Council recognize him, will we go back to the days of boycott [reference to Muslim ministers' boycott of former president Al-Jumayyil]? Only in reverse this time?

['Awn] This assumption, as far as I am concerned, is not yet in the cards because first of all there is the question of political stands that are blown out of proportion—yesterday, they called them deterrent stands—and then there is reality. When they become reality, we will deal with them.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, do you believe that the person carrying out the conspiracy to fragment and

partition Lebanon, the Syrian, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, has been able to take a patriotic Lebanese deputy, known for his Lebanese patriotism, such as Dr George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party, and to control him to such a degree, in a fateful circumstance, and prevent him from meeting with the head of state in his country? Has the person carrying out this conspiracy reached the point where he can prevent Dr Sa'adah—not just any deputy-...[sentence incomplete as heard] Dr Sa'adah is known as leader of a political party with a long history. You said last time that the Phalangists have offered sacrifices and are partners in martyrdom for the sake of Lebanon.

['Awn] He cannot prevent him. Perhaps he can delay him, but at the same time he paralyzes him. I mean he isolates him. Just as he is trying to isolate Gen 'Awn, he can isolate Dr Sa'adah in a manner that will prevent him from being effective. No, no he paralyzes him. He will come. He will come by himself. His presence in Paris will not prevent a quorum and will not prevent the march from pressing ahead without him.

[Reporter] He has 23 deputies with him.

['Awn] The 23 deputies are not with him.

[Reporter] No, I mean they are present in...

['Awn, interrupting] Everyone has his own Khaddam, allow me to say. [laughter, applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, a simple question. This is one of the rare times we see the government all present together attending the news conference. Have you intentionally done this to refute rumors that might have circulated that every member of the government has a different view?

['Awn, laughing] We have not done this intentionally. I have never been alone. Even when they are not sitting with me, they are always with me and I with them. It is a question of circumstances. Today we had been at a meeting together and then we had lunch together. Then it was time for us to meet with you, so they came. If you wish to consider it a refutation of those who are talking, then it is all right. [laughs]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, do you think that 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's threat to the deputies, East Beirut deputies, not to return is due to the existence of secret agreements or deals other than al-Ta'if agreement that led the deputies to yield to this threat?

['Awn] Why do you ask me these questions? Watch what is happening and you will figure it out. This is natural. Could you bring those staying at the Royal Monceal somewhere here in Lebanon for 3 hours, even if you give them all they want? Not a single one of them wants to take a walk even for 10 meters outside the hotel. Why do you ask me these questions? Do you want me to swear to you? The story is clear. It is all written down, ABC [words indistinct].

[Reporter] It was noticed in the two speeches that His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr made upon his return from abroad, both during the prayers and sermon last Sunday, that he did not act like an arbiter regarding the contradictory opinions over the al-Ta'if document. He was even a bit in favor of the deputies' opinion and more understanding of their views than yours. Did things become clearer after the Patriarch's visit here yesterday? What happened between you, if you could tell us?

['Awn] Generally speaking, I do not disclose the contents of my talks with people. I always keep what concerns me to myself. Even if his beatitude the patriarch agrees or disagrees with my own view, I would not disclose this on his behalf, because he is the one who could best express himself. Undoubtedly we exchanged all the viewpoints. I am now expressing my own view regarding the al-Ta'if agreement, what is going on, and what is happening now on the ground. Certainly no one can accept electing a president whose identity is unknown until this moment, except through some whispers. No one knows what his program is, what is he going to do, what will he be committed to, what changes will he make, or whether he is here or abroad. Therefore, such a president can only be a kind of an agent. Had he been a true president, he would have committed himself before the people on what he is going to do and when he fails to do that he must come and say to the people, I could not do what I promised you for these reasons. Once he makes secret commitments, once his name is put on a slip of paper that will be put in the deputies' pockets when they enter the Chamber of Deputies, it means he is an agent who is unacceptable to the Lebanese people.

[Reporter] Let us return to the basic matter, that is, the presidential elections. You are talking in the name of the Lebanese people, while it is noticed that many of the leading figures and factions within the Lebanese people want to go along with the idea of elections, while you want the elections to be postponed. Meanwhile, the Lebanese people attach importance to their constitutional institutions and want to have a president. Could you tell the true reasons why you want the elections of a president to be delayed?

['Awn] I want them to know what this president is going to do. How could they demand elections while they are unaware of this? You who are present here, I want to know your opinion. Do you agree with this robbery? Say it frankly and in a loud voice. [shouts from audience saying no] Then I am speaking in your name. This is the first faction of the Lebanese people, the one representing the public opinion. I am saying that a president must say what he is going to do, what he will commit himself to.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, Raymond Iddih is a presidential candidate. Do you support him?

['Awn] I support many people. I even support those whose nomination has not been revealed. But I just cannot support their ways and methods. I want to know the candidate and his program so that you and I will

support him. Every candidate should represent the people and not himself alone.

[Reporter] At the end of his meeting with His Beautitude Patriarch Sfayr today, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi said there have been no changes in the stands. Does this mean that the pressures continue to be imposed on the deputies? And this looks as if the Arabs are endorsing the pressures to force you to adopt the inescapable stand, the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, in order to further divide the country. Do you believe that the Arabs are in the game to force you to dissolve the Chamber and intensify the division of the country or have the Arabs joined the game naively?

['Awn] This game is unacceptable, and no matter what the other game is, our game will still be much better than their game.

[Reporter] Regarding the issue of elections, there was a parliamentary tendency that if a parliamentary delegation arrives here for negotiations it will agree with you on the name of the next president. If contacts resume and the parliamentary delegation arrives for negotiations, is your excellency willing to agree with the delegation on the next president despite the presence of the al-Ta'if agreement?

['Awn] Everything is possible. I might agree with them and might not agree. I have three options: either they agree with me on the basis of my point of view and leave me to do my work, or I will be convinced by their point of view and leave them to do their work, or we will differ and everyone will do his own work. But for the last time, I urge all deputies that Lebanon must be salvaged, whether through them—and here the solution will be much easier—or without them, and the solution will be more difficult, but in either case Lebanon must be salvaged. I prefer that the solution be achieved through them. Thank you. [applause]

'Awn Receives Liberal Party Deputy From Paris

NC0311214789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Fifteen minutes ago, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received Deputy Dr Pierre Dakkash and Eng Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party.

Dr Dakkash arrived in Beirut from Paris tonight and met with Husayni al-Husayni. After meeting Al-Husayni, Dakkash deplored the bombings at some of the deputies' homes. He noted that some quarters have made a decision to block tomorrow's session for the election of the president. Dakkash, however, said that he will take part in the session, unless he is prevented from doing so by a show of superior force.

Dakkash said he returned back to Beirut to brief the officials on the al-Ta'if talks and to urge flexibility in dealing with the situation. Flexibility is needed, he said, to bring the nation together, rebuild the state's power, and extend the state's authority all over Lebanon. He said that he has one message to deliver, a message that bespeaks the hopes of all the Lebanese for the end of war, for peace, for election of the president, and for full sovereignty. Sovereignty is on the mind of all the Lebanese, not the least Gen Michel 'Awn, Dakkash said.

Explosions Near Deputies' Homes in Juniyah

Several Casualties Reported

NC0311152689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] An explosion took place in Juniyah's main street a short while ago. According to preliminary information, smoke is billowing from the area and ambulances have rushed to the scene.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon at 1453 GMT on 3 November adds in another report that "the explosion took place in a residential building and there are several casualties."]

1 Injured in Explosion

NC0311160389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A woman has been injured in the explosion which took place in the vicinity of Deputy Ilyas al-Khazin's home in Juniyah at about 1640 today. At about 1715, another explosion was heard in Beirut, but no information is available on that one yet.

Explosions Target Homes, Office

NC0311181089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Explosions took place at the homes and office of three deputies this afternoon. The first blast occurred at 1645 today at the apartment building where Deputy Ilyas al-Khazin lives in Juniyah. The explosion wounded citizen Isabelle Sfayr, 50, and caused considerable property damage.

The second blast took place in Badaru [in East Beirut] at the home of Deputy Salim 'Abd-al-Nur. An explosive charge exploded a short time later at the building housing the office of Deputy August Bakhus on Mar Yusuf Street in al-Dawrah [in East Beirut].

The Interior Ministry issued the following statement this evening:

To exploit the current situation in the country and obstruct General Michel 'Awn's call for the deputies to return to Lebanon for consultations, certain agents who were behind the recent inflammatory leaflets made their move and threw explosive charges at the homes of some deputies.

Prime Minister 'Awn, acting swiftly in his capacity as interior and defense minister, gave firm instructions to

the competent security authorities to protect the deputies' homes and to search for and arrest the culprits and bring them to justice.

Gen 'Awn has warned that such attacks aim at creating the pretext for justifying certain positions and spreading confusion.

Further on Fire, Explosions

NC0411101889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] A fire broke out at the house of Deputy Tariq Habshi in Adonis this morning, causing serious damage to the house.

Three explosive devices went off at the houses of Deputy Salim 'Abd-al-Nur and Ilyas al-Khazin and the office of Deputy August Bakhus yesterday.

'Awn Issues Decree Dissolving Chamber of Deputies

NC0411070289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0522 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Decree No 420 dissolving the Chamber of Deputies read by "Prime Minister" General Michel 'Awn in B'abda on 4 Nov—recorded]

[Text] According to the Constitution, especially Articles 68, 55, 58, 50, 25, 24, 2, and 1; according to decrees No 5387 dated 22 September 1989 appointing General Michel 'Awn Prime Minister, No 5388 dated 22 September 1988 forming the cabinet, No 4 dated 4 October 1988 appointing acting ministers, No 196 dated 6 March 1989 designating some ministers as resigned from the cabinet; and according to the provisions of the law on the Chamber of Deputies members' election issued on 26 April 1960, and decree No 2909 dated 8 March 1978 inviting the parliamentary committees to elect Chamber of Deputies members;

According to laws No 1/76 dated 13 March 1976 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 30 June 1978, No 3/78 dated 20 February 1978 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 30 June 1980, No 14/80 dated 2 June 1980 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 30 June 1983, No 9/83 dated 21 May 1983 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 31 December 1984, No 3/84 dated 22 June 1984 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 31 December 1986, No 11/86 dated 11 August 1986 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 31 December 1988, and No 52/87 dated 22 December 1987 extending the Chamber of Deputies' term to 31 December 1990;

And since the Chamber of Deputies was elected in 1978 and exceptionally extended its term seven successive times; since over 17 years have passed since its election and since over 13 years have passed since its original term expired, since the Chamber has lost its representational character, especially as Lebanese citizens born between 1952 and 1968 have not participated in the election of the members of the chamber and since these citizens constitute the majority of the Lebanese enjoying voting rights;

And since the Chamber of Deputies has proved its failure to perform its basic tasks, including not approving the general budget since 1986; and the document approved by the Chamber of Deputies members outside Lebanese territory and to which they committed themselves in public voting on 22 October 1989 infringes on Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and since this document gives the Syrian occupation a legal character and since this is considered an infringement of sovereignty and a violation of the Constitution, especially Articles 1 and 2; and since to ensure security it is necessary to hold parliamentary elections in stages in accordance with legislative decree No 9 dated 21 November 1939, on fixing dates on which laws and decrees become effective;

And according to a proposal by the interior minister, and after the approval of the Cabinet in its decision No 1 dated 3 November 1989, the Cabinet decrees the following:

Article 1: Dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies as of the date this decree is issued.

Article 2: Inviting the parliamentary committees to elect members for the Chamber of Deputies in the electoral constituencies according to the following time schedule:

Electoral constituencies in the provinces of Beirut and the North on Sunday, 7 January 1990.
Electoral constituencies in the Mount Lebanon provinces on Sunday, 14 January 1990.
Electoral constituencies in the al-Biqa' and Southern provinces on Sunday, 21 January 1990.

Article 3: This decree will be published and posted at the Cabinet headquarters entrance and shall become effective as of the its issue date.

Signed: Edgar Ma'luf, minister
'Isam Abu-Jamrah, deputy prime minister and minister
Michel 'Awn, prime minister
Issued by the Cabinet in B'abda on 4 November 1989

Al-Huss Says Decree 'Illegal'

NC0411062689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the paper AL-SABAH, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss described General Michel 'Awn's decision to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies as illegal and unconstitutional. He said this decision is null and void, and it must not affect the peace process at all.

Prime Minister al-Huss also said: This arrogance being falsely practiced in the name of legitimacy must end. The only way to end it is to elect a president of the Republic and to revive the constitutional institutions.

Gen 'Awn has taken a step into the void. He announced the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. Jurists and political circles consider 'Awn's announcement null and void and that it will not affect the course of events.

Speaker Al-Husayni Chairs Meeting With Deputies

NC0311181589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni chaired a meeting which began at noon today and was attended by Deputies 'Ali al-Khalil, 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn, Yusuf Hammud, Nazih al-Bizri, Zaki Mazbudi, Rafiq Shahin, Najah Wakim, Talal al-Mir'ibi, Mikha'il Dahir, Malkun Ablikatian, Antranik Manukian, 'Ali al-'Abdallah, and Hashim al-Husayni. During the meeting, which lasted until 1400, they discussed tomorrow's chamber session. Speaker al-Husayni left the meeting for 30 minutes to meet the Soviet ambassador.

After the meeting, Deputy Hashim al-Husayni was asked if the chamber session will be held on time tomorrow. He replied: Certainly. Why else am I here? Asked what will happen if it is obstructed, he answered: Who told you it would be obstructed? We affirm that there will be a quorum; indeed, there will be more than a mere quorum.

Ibrahimi Comments on Meeting

NC0311184589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi this evening met Husayn al- Husayni and said that Mansur Palace is no longer a suitable venue for holding the parliamentary session. Ibrahimi said that East Beirut representatives to the security committee today informed the committee that they have instructions to suspend the work on establishing the security zone until the deputies return and meet with General Michel 'Awn.

Ibrahimi pointed out that Al-Husayni has begun consultations with his colleagues to select another venue for the session. Ibrahimi said that there is a chance for the Lebanese to emerge from their crisis. We know that the Lebanese do not want to miss that opportunity and we hope that no one will make them miss it, Ibrahimi said.

Ibrahimi added that the dates which were set for the parliamentary session and for the election of the president were announced after exhaustive consultations with all parties during which no objections were heard. Ibrahimi underscored the necessity of holding the parliamentary session within the specified time frame to elect the president, form a unified government, and revive the state's institutions. He reiterated that Lebanon cannot afford the consequences of the continued crisis and the division of the government and state institutions.

Sham'un on Plan To Reach Understanding in Paris

NC0411064289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] National Liberal Party Leader Dany Sham'un described the decision [made by General 'Awn to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies] as difficult. He said that it has not been very easy for the general to make this decision. However, the decision was made after numerous contacts and after giving the deputies a chance to return. We have discovered that preparations were being made outside the country and that Chamber of Deputies speaker Husayn al-Husayni plans to go to Paris with some deputies to meet there and reach an understanding on a president for the Republic.

Sham'un said: In view of this serious matter, Gen 'Awn was compelled to take this step.

Deputy Sa'adah Says Al-Husayni Coming to Paris

NC0411073489 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, Nov 4 (AFP)—General Michel 'Awn, head of a disputed Christian-led Lebanese government, announced Saturday the dissolution of parliament hours before it was due to meet in secret and elect a president.

Just an hour earlier, between 24 and 28 deputies had left the Lebanese capital in a convoy of private cars for an undisclosed destination where the parliamentary session was expected to be held.

But in Paris, 20 Christian MPs [Members of Parliament] delayed their departure for Lebanon, one of them, Lebanese Front leader Georges Sa'adah, told Agence France-Presse. He said outgoing Speaker Husayn al-Husayni would arrive in Paris later Saturday to discuss the presidential election with the MPs. Mr Sa'adah, whose formation is a coalition of Lebanese Christian parties, called Gen 'Awn's action "unconstitutional" and said his government's role should be to "prepare the presidential election."

Gen 'Awn, who rejected an Arab peace plan endorsed by MPs last month in the Saudi resort of al-Ta'if, on Friday urged Christian deputies to boycott Saturday's parliamentary session and return to Beirut for talks. He read a decree over Lebanese television announcing the dissolution of the parliament and the holding of legislative elections. He said the deputies had "violated the Constitution by approving in a public vote at al-Ta'if, outside Lebanese territory, an agreement that breaches the sovereignty of Lebanon and the unity of its territory." In his decree he said the present Lebanese parliament "was no longer representative" since legislative elections were last held in 1972.

The group of MPs in Lebanon left the capital after a meeting with Mr Al-Husayni at his home in the Syrian-controlled sector of Beirut. The MPs were under heavily-armed escort, and journalists were not allowed to follow them. Most of the MPs were carrying briefcases and were

accompanied by advisers or bodyguards. Mr Al-Husayni's office refused to make any statement.

A parliamentary quorum would require 49 deputies, two-thirds of the present total of 73 deputies, to take part in the presidential election.

Gen 'Awn's announcement followed a meeting of more than six hours with a maronite MP, Pierre Dakkash, who arrived earlier Friday from Paris.

Mr Dakkash, considered close to Gen 'Awn, had talks after his arrival at Syrian-controlled Beirut airport with Mr Al-Husayni and then crossed into Christian East Beirut to meet with Gen 'Awn.

Moslem premier Salim al-Huss described Gen 'Awn's decision to dissolve parliament as "illegal and unconstitutional." He told AFP that it would have "no impact on the march for peace in the long- or the short-run." Mr al-Huss said that Gen 'Awn's "obduracy in the name of legitimacy must end, and the only means of halting it is by electing a president and reviving constitutional institutions."

Prior to Gen 'Awn's statement, the MPs in Paris called on him to "join in the process leading to peace and recovery of national sovereignty before it is too late."

Al-Husayni Reportedly Arrives

NC0411094189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] There are conflicting reports regarding the whereabouts of the deputies. While some media services have reiterated that the deputies in Paris have left Paris, information available to our radio indicates that the Eastern area deputies are still in Paris awaiting word from Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

AFP reported that Speaker al-Husayni boarded a plane at al-Qulay'at on his way to Larnaca. The news agency quoted deputies in Paris saying that Al-Husayni will leave later for the French capital to meet with 20 deputies there and discuss the election issue with them.

According to subsequent information, al-Husayni arrived in Paris a short while ago.

Beirut Reports Attempt To Assassinate 'Awn

NC0411121889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1154 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] According to exclusive information received by our news desk, General 'Awn was subjected to an assassination attempt by one of his guards when he was at his office at the Presidential Palace in B'abda last night.

Paper Says Elections May Be Held in Al-Diman

NC0411074889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has reported that 20 Lebanese deputies left Beirut in a convoy of private cars for an unidentified destination last night.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-DIYAR reported this morning that the western area deputies left for the north at approximately 0400 today. The paper expected the elections to be held in al-Diman [in Northern Lebanon].

The paper indicated that Speaker al-Husayni will go to Paris today accompanied by a parliamentary delegation of more than 10 deputies. The speaker will be joined in Paris by Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam to meet with eastern area deputies.

Further on Election Site

NC0411085189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] On the basis of an invitation by Speaker Husayn al- Husayni, the deputies have agreed to elect a new president of the Republic in al-Diman [in north Lebanon] today and to consider their session open until their constitutional duty is completed before noon, according to parliamentary sources.

A senior government source has not ruled out the possibility that the parliamentary session, which will surely convene today, will achieve its goals and elect a president for Lebanon as a prelude for reviving the entire natural constitutional cycle.

Damascus Radio Comments

NC0411082289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0748 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Citing Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Damascus radio this morning said that the parliamentary sessions to elect a speaker for the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber's bureau staff, to endorse the al-Ta'if agreement, and to elect the Republic's president will be held at 1000 this morning.

The Syrian radio did not mention the venue of the parliamentary sessions.

Deputies in Paris Appeal to 'Awn, Issue Statement

NC0411093189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The deputies currently in Paris held a meeting during which they discussed developments and the explosions targeted against some of their houses. As a result of the contacts, it was agreed that a delegation representing them will go meet with General 'Awn and discuss ways to avert more tragedies in the country. They will also call upon him to join the restoration of security and the peace process.

After reviewing what the media said were reasons precluding their departure for Lebanon, after noting the news conference Gen 'Awn held yesterday afternoon, and after being informed about the attack against the lives and property of some of them in Lebanon, the deputies issued a statement affirming their determination to avoid the slip into labyrinths and confrontations that some groups desire.

The statement described blowing up some of the deputies' houses as an instinctive reaction. The statement said that the deputies have emphasized that these criminal actions will not weaken their will or change their national convictions. They added that they share their people's sufferings and sacrifices. All this is a part of the duty which they have undertaken to save the country.

The statement adds: It is absolutely untrue that the deputies have relinquished sovereignty to others. What is true is that after exhaustive efforts, the deputies were able to work out an Arab and internationally guaranteed clear mechanism, which has received the support and backing of all fraternal and friendly states and the support and guarantee of the five major powers. It is the mechanism for achieving full sovereignty according to a set timetable linked to a security plan providing for the dissolution of the militias, collecting their weapons, and strengthening the Lebanese Army and internal security forces.

The parliamentary stand at al-Ta'if, which is intended to end Lebanon's collapse, has earned the support of all national, spiritual, and parliamentary forces and all fraternal and friendly states which backed Lebanon during its ordeal. This stand has also restored interest and commitment in Lebanon's future. Therefore, nobody must distort this stand and turn it from a historical national achievement into a treasonous action.

Concluding their statement, the deputies' meeting in Paris said: Out of their responsible knowledge about the reality of their homeland and the conditions of their citizens and in harmony with the dictates of their national conscience, the deputies address themselves to Gen 'Awn and demand he join the march of peace and restore national sovereignty before it is too late. They also request that he avert the evil of falling into the net of the plot which seeks to continue the country's state of deterioration and destruction, implement the plot of foiling what has been achieved, and destroy every serious hope of regaining sovereignty, liberating the land, and uniting the people.

When addressing this appeal with all sincerity, the Lebanese deputies draw attention to the historical responsibility which all assume, and note particularly that extra emotionalism might lead to the loss of sovereignty for good and Lebanon's destruction. Out of mercy for our people and homeland and out of consideration for our sons' future, we call for consolidation of the ranks and for cooperation to save Lebanon on the basis that what has been accomplished so far is but a first step along the path of regaining sovereignty, consolidating stability, and restoring peace. Long live Lebanon.

Deputy al-Khazin stated that the 20 deputies decided on the night of 3 November to proceed to Cyprus this morning to meet with Speaker al-Husayni.

Deputy Sa'adah emerged from the long meeting at 0100 to hold contacts and then returned. The conferees then approved the text of the statement addressed to 'Awn urging him to join the process of peace and of restoring national sovereignty before it is late. They also reaffirmed their pledge to elect a new president of the Republic who will be a symbol of the country's unity in confronting the plot aimed at partitioning this country and wiping it off the map.

Deputies Arrive in Al-Qulay'at; Speaker in Cyprus

NC0411085989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] According to the latest information regarding the election session, 22 deputies arrived at al-Qulay'at military airport at 0900 today, while Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Larnaca at the head of a parliamentary delegation to meet with deputies who are residing in the eastern area to arrange the election sessions expected to take place at the al-Qulay'at military base some time today. These sessions may last until late at night.

The deputies residing in the western area left Beirut at 0340 today and spent 5 hours on the road until they reached al-Qulay'at airport by way of the Beirut-al-Biqa'-Homs-al-'Aridah-al-Qulay'at road. The venue was a surprise to all; no one had expected it.

So far the following deputies are present at al-Qulay'at airport: Zaki Mazbudi, Jamil Kibbi, Talal al-Mar'abi, Anwar al-Sabbah, 'Abd- al-Mawla Amhaz, Yusuf Hammud, Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, 'Ali al-Khalil, Rafiq Shahin, Najah Wakim, Rashid al-Sulh, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Hasan al-Rifa'i, Nazih al-Bizri, 'Adil 'Usayran, 'Ali al-'Abdallah, Munif al-Khatib, Hashim al-Husayni, Ra'if Samarah, Husayn Mansur, Mikhayil al-Dahir, and Zahir al-Khatib.

Minister of the Interior Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi and deputies Melkon Eblighatian, Antranig Manougian, and Salih al-Khayr left with Speaker al-Husayni for Larnaca.

Election Session Scheduled for 4 Nov at 1700

NC0411101289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0840 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following: The information ministry's mission which is now at al-Qulay'at Airport informed us a short while ago that the parliamentary election session is expected to be held at the lecture hall at al-Qulay'at Airport at 1700 this afternoon. The mission reports that the lecture hall, which is allocated for officers, has room for 100 chairs and that it has been prepared for hosting the elections.

The mission says that the deputies agree unanimously that the elections should be held as soon as possible today. They point out that there is international, Arab, and regional agreement on holding these elections.

We were informed a short while ago that 25 deputies have arrived at the airport thus far. They are waiting for their colleagues from Paris to join them.

Session Postponed

NC0411141389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The 26 deputies staying at the al-Qulay'at airbase have left for towns in northern Lebanon to have lunch and stay for the night. Special suites have been booked in hotels in Zgharta for a number of deputies. Meanwhile, it has been reported that the deputies were contacted from Paris and told to postpone the election session until tomorrow, Sunday.

We have learned from Paris that [Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni has continued his contacts with the deputies. He has arrived at Royal Monceal Hotel at 1400 accompanied by deputies Malkun Ablighatian and Salih al-Khayr. He immediately went to the suite of Dr George Sa'adah, where they were joined by Deputies Butrus Harb, Fu'ad Naffa', Habib Kayruz, 'Uthman al-Dana, Albert Mansur, Nadim Salim, and Tariq Habshi.

The East Beirut deputies will hold a meeting at 1600 today to make a final decision in light of al-Husayni's proposals.

Former president Sulayman Franjiyah declared his candidacy at the al-Qulay'at Airport today.

'Abdallah al-Rasi said that the election session will be held at the al-Qulay'at Airport, noting that the session is open and may continue until tomorrow. He said that General 'Awn's decision to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies is unconstitutional. Asked about the residence of the new president, al-Rasi said: He will reside in our hearts and can exercise his powers anywhere in Lebanon.

Franjiyah Informs Deputies of Candidacy

NC0311222189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] East Beirut deputies who have been holding a meeting in Paris since 1900 Paris time, are working on a statement that will specify their stand. Deputies Butrus Harb and Nasri al-Ma'luf are drawing up the text of the statement.

The statement includes three points: First, explaining the circumstances surrounding the approval of the Arab document; second, regarding the document as a guarantee for the Syrian Army's withdrawal; and third, discussing the possibility of moving to Larnaca, Cyprus as a new stage and consulting with an envoy representing Husayn al-Husayni in order to reach agreement on the issue of holding a Chamber of Deputies session.

Robert Franjiyah telephoned Deputies Kazim al-Khalil and Habib Kayruz tonight and informed them that his father, former president Sulayman Franjiyah, is going ahead with his candidacy for the Presidency. He asked them to inform the meeting deputies of this matter.

Meets Deputies at Airport

NC0411133689 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Al-Qulay'at, Lebanon, Nov 4 (AFP)—Former head of state Sulayman Franjiyah, a Christian considered close to Syria, met Lebanese deputies gathered at a military airport here Saturday and announced his candidacy as president.

The move followed Christian military leader Michel 'Awn's announcement that he was dissolving parliament to prevent it electing a president and ratifying an Arab peace plan at a session scheduled for Saturday.

Twenty-four MPs, mainly Moslems, arrived at al-Qulay'at airport in Syrian-controlled northern Lebanon after leaving Beirut overnight in a convoy of limousines along with parliamentary speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Mr al-Husayni later left for Paris for talks with 29 other Lebanese MPs, whose absence from Lebanon had made it unlikely that parliament would have obtained Saturday the quorum of 49 MPs necessary to elect a president.

The Lebanese Army's second brigade, which is loyal to Salim al-Huss' mainly Moslem Syrian-backed administration, was in charge of security at the airport.

Mr Franjiyah, 79, president between 1970 and 1976 and a personal friend of Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad, announced his candidacy to journalists without comment after holding talks with the deputies.

His term was marked by the beginning of 14 years of factional strife in 1975 and his government's request in 1976 for Syrian troops to intervene to stop the fighting. Damascus' forces have remained in Lebanon ever since.

Mr Franjiyah had made a similar bid for the Presidency before the six-year term of Amin Al-Jumayil ended in September 1988, but his candidacy was blocked by mainstream Christians.

The country has been without a president since Mr al-Jumayyil's term expired and has been ruled by two rival administrations—an all-Christian cabinet led by Gen 'Awn and Mr al-Huss' government.

Three other Christians—Central Bank Governor Edmond Naim, veteran MP Raymond Iddih and 'Awn aide Faruk Abu-al-Lama'—have announced their candidacies for the Presidency, which traditionally falls to a Maronite.

Al-Dahir Announces Candidacy

NC0411163689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah met with the deputies in al-Qulay'at today. He announced to newsmen his nomination for the presidency, noting that there are other candidates.

Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir also announced to a number of deputies with whom he met at al-Qulay'at airbase that he will be running in the presidential elections.

Franjiyah Withdraws From Election

NC0511105489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah has said he had nominated himself to the post of president of the Republic as an unopposed candidate of reconciliation, agreed upon by all deputies and parties in Lebanon.

Franjiyah added: Now that the conditions and circumstances are those of an election battle, I announce that I withdraw my candidacy to the election battle. I place my full confidence in the Chamber of Deputies, which was able, in the most difficult circumstances, to preserve Lebanon's unity and legitimacy. I place all my support at the disposal of the president that the noble deputies elect to end the prolonged crisis, to revive the state and its institutions, and to restore the homeland's past status, stability, and prosperity.

Two More Announce Candidacy

NC0511121289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] There have been some changes in the list of presidential candidates. Dr George Sa'adah and Dr Edmond Na'im, the latter the governor of the Bank of Lebanon, have announced their nominations. We were informed by parliamentary sources in al-Qulay'at a short while ago that Deputy Mikhayil al-Dahir has withdrawn his nomination.

'Awn Rules Out Elections in Al-Qulay'at

NC0411155889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] In a statement to Radio France International, General 'Awn declared that he wants the presidential elections to be held in Lebanon under international supervision. He said that the Chamber of Deputies is no longer a legal authority [marji'an] but a danger. It no longer possesses a representative status. It has made mistakes that contravened the Constitution, exceeded its powers, and has not performed its tasks since 1986.

He added: If a president is elected, the elections will be unconstitutional. He said that such elections cannot be held in al-Qulay'at, because it is an airbase controlled by Syria.

Deputies in Paris Agree on Al-Qulay'at Elections

NC0411192389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The expanded meeting which was held between the eastern area deputies and Husayn al-Husayni at Royal Monceal in Paris ended at 1945 today. After the meeting, al-Husayni said: We are here to hold consultations on whatever can save our country, adding that the consultations will continue.

It was reported this evening that the deputies have reached an agreement in principle that al-Qulay'at airport will be the venue for the Chamber of Deputies session. However, one of the leading deputies asked for time to make contacts before defining his position regarding the venue.

The deputies also reportedly agreed to leave Paris for Lebanon tomorrow without announcing the time of departure.

Regarding the names of the presidential candidates, the first round will be open to all the candidates. The second round will be limited to two candidates only.

'Awn Says 'Not a Presidential Candidate'

NC0411203589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn stressed that his goal in dissolving the Chamber of Deputies was not partition, but if this leads to a temporary paritition, it means that the occupied parts of Lebanese territory must be liberated. In a statement to foreign reporters, 'Awn pointed out that he is not a presidential candidate. He said that the al-Ta'if plan has been suspended and that if it is amended, it can continue.

Gen 'Awn said: We will not resort to war, and he noted that we are passing through a diplomatic stage. However, if the others begin the war anew, we will defend ourselves. He pointed out that every party must realize that the means that have been used so far are not suitable for solving the Lebanese problem. Therefore, they must change their means and goals, and I have to retain my means and goals.

Al-Husayni Says Deputies To Return to Lebanon

NC0411223589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese deputies met in Paris for a second time with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to agree on the date of their return to Beirut and the venue of the parliamentary session.

After the meeting, Al-Husayni said that the deputies will leave today [5 November] for Lebanon and that they have agreed to hold the elections in the specified time

frame. The time and venue of the elections will be determined today following consultations with other deputies, al-Husayni said.

Deputies To Organize Elections

LD0411232289 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The political crisis in Lebanon: The Lebanese deputies have no intention of yielding to the dictat of General 'Awn. I remind you that Michel 'Awn this morning dissolved the Lebanese parliament to prevent the election of a president of the Republic.

The 30 or so Christian deputies who held a meeting today in Paris hotel have decided to leave Paris tomorrow [5 November] for Beirut with the intention of organizing the presidential election by the deadline—before 7 November.

Ibrahimi, Ambassadors, Deputies Arrive

NC0511115489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has arrived at al-Qulay'at Airport. The ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Romania, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, the Yemen Arab Republic, as well as the charge d'affaires from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and China, arrived on the same plane.

Deputies 'Abdallah Amhaz, Hashim al-Husayni, Yusuf Hammud, Mikhayil al-Dahir, 'Adil 'Usayran, Najah Wakim, Husayn Mansur, and Ra'if Samarah; U.S. Embassy Political Adviser Gabi 'Akar; and the Chamber of Deputies protocol chief have also arrived at the airport. [passage omitted]

Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and other deputies who left France this morning, are expected to arrive at the airport. Deputies Joseph Skaf, Jubran Tawq, and Maurice Fadil remained in Paris and will not participate in the electoral session. [passage omitted]

Official sources said the ambassadors of France, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Italy are expected to travel by vehicle to the electoral session.

Quorum 'Guaranteed'

NC0511133489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Deputies Kazim al-Khalil, Khatchik Babikian, Mahmud 'Ammar, Salih al-Khayr, Nadim Salim, Ahmad Isbir, Habib Kayruz, Farid Jubran, Michel Ma'luli, Butrus Harb, Fu'ad Naffa', Hamid Taqruq, Auguste Bakhus, 'Uthman al-Dana, Sorene Khamamirian, Michel Sasin, Ilyas al-Khazin, and Subhi Yaghi arrived at al-Qulay'at Airport from Paris at 1430 today.

A second plane arrived at the airport at 1445 carrying Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Rene Mu'awwad, Pierre Hilu, Ilyas al-Harawi, Shafiq Badr, George Sa'adah, Tariq Habshi, Albert Mansur, Amin al-Hafiz, Nasr al-Ma'luf, and Edmond Rizk.

The deputies headed for the election hall immediately upon arrival. The legal quorum has been guaranteed for holding the presidential elections.

Army To Initiate 'Strict' Security Measures

NC0511103689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and the ambassadors and representatives of the five major powers in Lebanon are scheduled to arrive at al-Qulay'at Airport at noon today to attend the electoral session.

It has been learned that a second plane carrying Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and some deputies will arrive at al-Qulay'at at noon today. Another plane will arrive later bringing the remaining deputies from Paris. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salim will arrive aboard a special plane from Geneva.

Lebanese Army units have initiated strict security measures on the approaches to al-Qulay'at Airport. All cars, other than those belonging to the deputies and licensed reporters, have been forbidden entry. A Lebanese Army unit is maintaining security inside the election hall which is known as the soldier's home.

Sa'adah Announces 'Nomination' to Presidency

NC0511110889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Before leaving Paris today, Deputy George Sa'adah [Phalangist Party leader] announced his nomination to the presidential elections saying that this step is part of the democratic game.

Session To Elect Chamber Speaker, Staff Opens

NC0511134089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1334 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] We have just been informed that the first session to elect the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber's office staff has just opened under the chairmanship of Kazim al-Khalil. Fifty-seven deputies are attending.

Speaker, Deputy Speaker Elected

NC0511140889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1348 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The deputies meeting at the officers hall in the al-Qulay'at Airport have elected Husayn al-Husayni as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. He got 52 votes. There were five blank papers. He made a speech and then the deputies began to cast their ballots to elect the deputy speaker. A number of foreign ambassadors are attending the session.

The first session began at 1525 today under Deputy Kazim al-Khalil. Deputy Najah Wakim sat on his right and Deputy Talal al-Mir'ibi on his left. Fifty-nine deputies attended the session. Deputy Sa'ib Salam arrived at al-Qulay'at Airport a short while ago and joined the session.

We have just received the following news report from the editor's desk: We have just learned that Deputy Albert Mukhaybir has been reelected as deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies....

Office Staff Elected

NC0511141689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1408 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: Following the election of Husayn al-Husayni as the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the election of Albert Mukhaybir as the deputy speaker, the following deputies have been elected as the Chamber's office staff: Salih al-Khayr, Tariq Habshi, Subhi Yaghi, Melkon Ablighatian, and Rai'f Samarah.

Mu'awwad Named President

NC0511150189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1457 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] His Excellency Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic, has just taken the constitutional oath before the deputies. He is now addressing the deputies in the presence of Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representatives of the diplomatic missions in Lebanon, and Algerian officers.

'Awn Says Presidential Elections 'Null,' 'Void'

NC0511151389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1456 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on the presidential election in al-Qulay'at today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: Proceeding from our constitutional and popular legitmacy and from the unity of the forces that represent the Lebanese people in the free areas, we believe that what is taking place in al-Qulay'at is an act that contravenes the Constitution and so must be considered null and void.

Gen 'Awn added: We tell the Lebanese people that we and they are still determined to foil the plots being hatched to eliminate what remains of our sovereignty and independence. No one should believe that we are in confrontation with an elected president; it is the Syrian occupiers, who are manipulating the people through puppets, whom we are confronting. We maintain our stand defending our basic principles on which our constitutional government was appointed in 1982.

AFP Receives Threat Against Mu'awwad

AU0511154189 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Al-Qulay'at, Lebanon, Nov 5 (AFP)—Rene Mu'awwad, 64, was Sunday elected president of Lebanon at a special meeting here of the Lebanese parliament, official sources said. [passage omitted]

An anonymous telephone caller to AFP in Beirut, claiming to represent the clandestine Christian Solidarity Front, warned that Mr. Mu'awwad would be killed if he entered Christian-controlled territory in Lebanon.

The caller said "the illegally elected president, Rene Mu'awwad, will be killed if he comes back to eastern regions" controlled by the Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn, who has denounced Sunday's meeting. [passage omitted]

Mu'awwad Views Duties, Ties With Syria

NC0511162489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Rene Mu'awwad was elected president of the republic in the second round of elections sessions held in al-Qulay'at. His election was uncontested after Deputies George Sa'adah and Ilyas al-Hrawi withdrew their candidacies. President Mu'awwad received 52 out of 58 votes, with 6 blank ballots.

The president took the constitutional oath and accepted congratulations from Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. He affirmed his total adherence to the historic accord agreement reached in al-Ta'if and asserted his desire to implement it. He belives that this agreement is a prelude to national peace, the establishment of a new republic, the building of Lebanon's Arab character, and an emphasis on it as a homeland for all its sons. He emphasized the importance of maintaining complete sovereignty on land, in the air, and at sea, announcing: This is an indisputable position.

Mu'awwad thanked the Arab League and his colleagues the deputies. He praised the tripartite committee and what was achieved in the al- Ta'if agreement.

The president-elect said: We will form a national accord government that will join what has been severed and unite what has been divided.

He stressed distinctive relations with Syria and said: There are interests and ties between us that make it necessary to organize these relations on the basis of strengthening mutual trust and the maintenance of dignity, sovereignty, and independence.

The president added: I have taken the oath of responsibility and I will carry out my duties fully. I pledge to you that I will not rest until the new republic is established in full, enjoying international and Arab support, and having clear decisionmaking ability.

Sami al-Khatib Congratulates Mu'awwad

NC0511161789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss announced this evening that he will submit his cabinet's resignation to enable the elected president to form a national accord government and is awaiting his first meeting with President Mu'awwad.

Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib also congratulated the elected president and announced that he will place his army brigades at Mu'awwad's disposal.

Al-Huss has received congratulations for the elected president from Algerian President Bendjedid. The congratulations were conveyed by the Algerian charge d'affaires in Lebanon.

Al-Huss Congratulates Mu'awwad, Resigns

NC0511171589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1649 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on the election of Deputy Rene Mu'awwad as president of the republic, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: The election of a new president represents a victory for the indivisible and unified Lebanon and opens the door to a better future. While expressing our satisfaction with this important constitutional step, we also express our hope that this closes an inauspicious chapter in Lebanon's history, a chapter full of fragmentation, destruction, death, and humiliation. We hope that this chapter will be erased from the memory of this noble people and that only its lessons will remain in their minds.

Dr al-Huss added: We congratulate the Lebanese people for the return of unity to their homeland. We also congratulate the deputies for overcoming all challenges by performing their national constitutional duties and electing a president of the republic, a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and the members of the Chamber's office staff. We thank our brothers and friends for their efforts and help for the Lebanese to forge ahead toward peace and salvation. We express our thanks to the Syrian leadership and the Arab higher committee and its envoy to Lebanon.

Dr al-Huss went on to say: While conveying my congratulations to the new president, His Excellency Rene Mu'awwad, and wishing him success in his task, I declare my resignation and that of the government to enable the new president to hold the necessary consultations for the formation of the national accord government as called for by the national document. I shall submit this resignation in writing at my first meeting with the new president.

Mu'awwad Discusses Reconciliation, Arab Ties

NC0511174189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At about 1700 today President Rene Mu'awwad took the constitutional oath and made a speech in which he urged national reconciliation. He emphasized that no one is being excluded. He urged the Lebanese people to join the peace process. He said: We do not exclude anyone, even those who insist on excluding themselves. Mu'awwad voiced full confidence in the army and the people.

In outlining his program, he stressed certain priorities. He said that the first priority is to unite the homeland and to regain sovereignty. He noted that the most pressing need is to eliminate the occupation of the south. Mu'awwad extended thanks to the Arab countries and declared: We must improve relations beginning with those near to us, and particularly with Syria, our closest neighbor.

Arab heads of state have begun to extend congratulations to Mu'awwad on his election as president. The first people to send cables of congratulations were Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Biography of New President Rene Mu'awwad

NC0511181889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Who is President Rene Mu'awwad?

He was born in Zgharta in 1925, the son of Anis Mu'awwad and Evelyn Shalhub. He began his studies at the Frair School in Tripoli, and in 1932 moved to the Frair School in Beirut. He completed his high school education at Saint Joseph's School in 'Aynturah. He received his law degree and graduated from Saint Joseph's University in 1947. Among his graduating colleagues that year were the late President Ilyas Sarkis and former Minister Michel Iddih. He worked as a lawyer in the office of the late Prime Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Yafi until 1949.

Mu'awwad opened a law office in Tripoli in 1951. Seven years later he moved to Beirut, where he devoted himself to politics.

Mu'awwad married Na'ilah 'Isa al-Khuri in 1965. They have two children: Rima, born in 1966, and Michel, born in 1972.

Rene Mu'awwad has represented the Zgharta area in the Chamber of Deputies since 1957. He was appointed minister of posts and telecommunications in 1961 and minister of public works and transport in the beginning of 1969. He was minister of education from December 1980 until 24 September 1982.

Rene Mu'awwad is one of the founders of the independent Maronite deputies bloc and a member of the

supreme leadership of Zgharta-al- Zawiyah. His hobbies are reading, swimming, and collecting paintings by Lebanese artists.

Chamber Ratifies Al-Ta'if Accord Document

NC0511173689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] After 1 year and 43 days, the Lebanese deputies have elected a president of the republic. Deputy Rene Mu'awwad has become the new president at the end of the three historic sessions held at the al-Qulay'at airbase this afternoon.

The Chamber of Deputies held its three historic sessions at 1517 at the al-Qulay'at airbase; that is, 2 days before the 7 November deadline set by the Arab higher committee. A quorum was guaranteed with the presence of 58 deputies. Speaker Husayn al-Husayni was reelected during the first session with 52 votes in favor, and Dr Albert Mukhaybir was elected deputy speaker with 53 votes in favor. The chamber ratified the al-Ta'if national accord document during the second session, with 57 votes in favor. [passage omitted]

Deputies Leave Al-Qulay'at After Election

NC0511174889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The elected president, Rene Mu'awwad, has left al-Qulay'at airbase for Zagharta to meet with former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

It should be noted that Rene Mu'awwad received 52 votes in the second round. There were also six blank ballots. He received these votes after Deputies Dr George Sa'adah and Ilyas al-Hirawi withdrew from the contest. In the first round, Mu'awwad received 35 votes, Dr Sa'adah received 16 votes, and Deputy al-Hirawi received 5 votes. There was one blank ballot. [numbers as heard]

After delivering his speech, the elected president received congratulations from his colleagues. Some of the deputies will be returning to West Beirut. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam left for Geneva on board a private plane. Some deputies will also leave al-Qulay'at airport for Paris via Larnaca Airport in Cyprus, where a number of them will stay for a while. However, this will depend on whether conditions at al-Qulay'at airport allow airplanes to take off at night. It has been reported that former President Franjiyah has invited some deputies to a dinner banquet.

While Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi remained in the north, the diplomats who attended the parliamentary sessions left for Beirut airport on board a Middle East Airlines aircraft.

Al-Asad Congratulates Lebanon's Rene Mu'awwad

JN0511161689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1525 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has congratulated Rene Mu'awwad on his election as president to the Republic of Lebanon. The president sent him the following cable:

Your Excellency Brother President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon: Because the march of Lebanese national reconciliation has begun with your election as president of the Republic of Lebanon, I am pleased to heartily congratulate you on the trust placed in you by the representatives of the fraternal Lebanese people.

The convening of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies crowned the sincere efforts to end Lebanon's crisis. Along with your election as president of the republic after the Chamber approved the Lebanese national reconciliation document and elected its speaker and members of the Chamber's Bureau, this important achievement has put Lebanon on the road to rescue. Now Lebanon is at the juncture of the departure from its long dilemma and from the abnormal situations in which it has found itself for many years.

We hope that the era that has begun with your election as president of the Republic will be a good era for the fraternal people, marked by the spirit of brotherhood and sincere concern for achieving success on the path of fraternity.

On this occasion, wishing you all successes in your responsibilities, I once again assert that Syria, which was alone in making many sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon, the dimensions and nature of which are known to all sincere Lebanese, will continue to support the path of Lebanese national reconciliation with the same power and momentum. It will support and back you and the new Lebanese Government, because the sacrifices it has made over the years for the sake of Lebanon were not based on transient circumstances, but originated in the ties of kinship, relations of brotherhood and common history, and the unity of the two countries' destiny.

I extend to you the sincerest wishes for good health and success and to Lebanon's brotherly people the good wishes on the path which we are confident will restore to Lebanon its health and status and liberate its territory from the Israeli aggression.

[Signed] Your brother, Hafiz al-Asad

Al-Zu'bi Discusses Lebanon, Economic Matters

JN0311215489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has stated that the national accord document that was approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in al-Ta'if is a political formula of what the Lebanese deputies were able to hammer out after protracted dialogue. In an interview with the Japanese news agency Tokyo KYODO on 1 November, Al-Zu'bi said that al-Ta'if document, with the provisions it contains on introducing reforms in the Lebanese political system, has resulted in an agreement that could bring about a political solution to the Lebanese crisis in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolution.

Al-Zu'bi stressed that what Syria worked for in the past, and what it continues to work for, is to assist the Lebanese brothers to cross the road of accord to attain the national solution safeguarding the interests of all Lebanese parties and the Arabs. The prime minister said that, in the event that the obstacles placed by Michel 'Awn to obstruct the political solution are overcome, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies that created the national accord document can complete its constitutional task and implement all of the document's provisions.

In reply to a question on the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon Al-Zu'bi said: We and the Lebanese are one people, who live in two states. He said that the al-Ta'if document proceeded from a basic fact: that relations between Syria and Lebanon are unique fraternal relations and that the concept of these relations is based on coordination and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi added that the document invites all the countries in the world to force Israel to submit to the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 425 on the need for the Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon. He continued that the international community has demonstrated its concern over Lebanon's unity and independence and will certainly work to force Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

In reply to a question on Syria's relations with the PLO, Al- Zu'bi said that Syria's relationship with the Palestinian cause constitutes Syria's modern history. Syria has fought in every Arab- Israeli war and has assumed, and continues to assume, heavy financial burdens to prepare its Armed Forces to defend Syria and the Palestinian cause. The prime minister reaffirmed that all political moves dealing with the Palestinian cause remain subject to analysis in accordance with Syria's pan-Arab yardstick, which is based on its concept of the various means of struggle for the attainment of the national objectives of the Palestinian Arab people.

Al-Zu'bi also emphasized that Syria is always ready for dialogue to make the Arab and Palestinian stand able to work and struggle for this cause.

On Syria's relations with both Egypt and Iraq, Al-Zu'bi said: The Casablanca summit meetings were a positive springboard for the general Arab position, and Syria's relationship with Egypt is historical. He added: At one time, they were one Arab country, and the contacts and interaction between the economic and social sectors in the two countries have never ceased.

He added: Syria and Egypt have no choice but to cooperate continuously to remove the causes of their estrangement. As for the Iraqi regime, which has chosen to be permanently antagonistic toward Syria, there is nothing new to say.

Responding to a question about Syrian-Japanese relations, Al- Zu'bi said there are encouraging steps for development, and the two countries have real prospects to further bilateral cooperation in investment and implementation of productive projects.

Replying to a question about the Syrian economy, Al-Zu'bi said Syria's economy principally depends on agricultural production and intermediate and extractive industries, particularly oil and gas. The Syrian Government, he added, has given top priority to agriculture and irrigation to build a significant production base dependent on arable, reclaimed, and irrigated land, as well as having implemented major water projects. The prime minister added: Agriculutural policy is taking such a turn as to make it increasingly dependent on irrigated land and diversified agricultural goods, as well as on the processing of agricultural products that meet the country's food needs and serve rising export commercial purposes.

Al-Zuz'bi went on to say that since the 1970s, Syria has made strides in building a major industrial base and more recently began rethinking many policies in the industrial sector. This has helped cut down on errors and has contributed to the improved performance of factories and plants and led to the enhanced fortunes of the industrial sector of the country's national economy. Syria has also taken important, encouraging steps along the road of developing the industries where the private sector can invest in accordance with the development plan.

On the extractive industries, the prime minister stressed that gas and oil are mainstays of this sector in Syria. He indicated that large fields have been discovered and pointed out that there are various companies operating under special contracts in the areas of prospecting, discovery, and production, so as to achieve a constant increase in the production of gas and oil as well as a growing contribution of oil revenues to the national economy.

The prime minister concluded his statements to KYODO by summarizing overall economic policies as follows: A significant development in the fabric of the national economy has taken place, particularly in balancing the economic and financial sectors and in redressing the Syrian trade balance. The 1989 figures clearly show the balance favoring exports over imports and that the national revenues in the general state budget cover investment and current expenditure. He called this an important development for the national economy which, along with increasing investments, should have broad implications for services that will be felt by our people, who have made sacrifices and held out and so deserve generous rewards.

Commentary Says 'Awn, Clique Must Be 'Removed'

JN0411150189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: All Lebanese were braced for a momentous event—a virtual lifeboat for Lebanon—crafted by the Arab tripartite committee along with the country's deputies with Arab and international backing. Enter Michel 'Awn, chief of the military clique that moved to dissolve parliament—a move viewed by parliamentarians of all shades of opinion and across party, geographical, and regional lines as null and void and threatening to partition the country. Observers of the Lebanese scene ever since 'Awn staged his military coup, took control of Ba'abda Palace, thwarted the presidential vote, sought to abort the al-Ta'if sessions, and issued frequent threats against the Lebanese deputies, are bound to conclude that the leader of the military clique is far from interested in Lebanon's salvation or seeing the reconciliation and reform aspired to by all Lebanese take effect, inasmuch as 'Awn has been implementing a scheme sponsored by the Zionist entity and Iraq's fascist regime with the object of destroying Lebanon and turning it into sectarian protectorates.

As today's decision by 'Awn aims to sabotage all the achievements of the al- Ta'if meetings and obstruct the deputies' drive to attain reconciliation and resuscitate the country, Zionist officials have time and again voiced their skepticism over the viability of the al-Ta'if agreement. They have declared that the agreement will not see the light of day, relying on the utterances of their Zionized general who is pressing on with his subversive, divisionist policies.

Thus the general's dismantlement of the last remaining legitimate, constitutional institution in Lebanon furnishes further evidence that 'Awn is pursuing his divisionist conspiracy by implementing an Israeli-Iraqi decision. The convening of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies would have dashed 'Awn's hopes to remain ensconced in the presidential palace and demolished all his despotic dreams. His plans having gone awry when all the country's deputies agreed to convene parliament to vote a president and house speaker into office, as well as to seal the al-Ta'if meetings, 'Awn decided this was his only route if he were to remain president. He felt he had to pursue his suicidal projects and his divisionist plots, and so he disbanded parliament.

And sensing his isolation even in the district where he has imposed himself by coercion, the general perpetrated a new terrorist action: He blew up the homes of the eastern district deputies in a last-ditch, desperate attempt at intimidation in the hope of bringing them back under his fold and fulfilling his lust for power.

The al-Ta'if accord, accepted unanimously at home, and blessed by the Arabs and the world over, has promised to usher in salvation for the country. It has held out the last hope for a realization of accord and reform. But 'Awn will not be able to continue to fly in the face of the Lebanese, Arab, and international will. Neither will he be able to turn back the clock to fighting, war, destruction, sabotage, partition, and Zionization.

Every effort must now be made to remove the last stumbling block standing in the way of reconciliation and reform—namely 'Awn and his Zionized clique.

Information Minister Receives Iraqi Opposition

JN0511185089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman today received the Iraqi Cultural Forum's executive committee. Dr Fadil al-Ansari, chairman of the executive committee, attended. The delegation comprised a number of Iraqi intellectuals who are members of the executive committee.

The meeting dealt with the work of the Cultural Forum and its activities, which are devoted to contributing to the fraternal Iraqi people's struggle against Saddam Husayn's fascist regime.

The meeting also discussed ways to coordinate with the [Syrian] Information Ministry to improve the forum's work and realize its objectives of defending Iraqi national culture and confronting the fascist ideas spread by the ruling regime in Baghdad.

Philippine Ambassador Submits Credentials

JN0511173789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Philippine Ambassador Pacifico Castro, who handed the minister a copy of his credentials as a new ambassador of his country to the Syrian Arab Repulic. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields. The minister also received a message from Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus. The message conveyed the thanks of the Philippine Government and people to the Syrian Government for its humanitarian assistance in securing the safe return to the Philippines of Philippine nationals during 'Awn's indiscriminate shelling of West Beirut suburbs.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture Murghab District

BK0311141889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that after a 15-day operation, the mujahidin have liberated Murghab District of Badghis Province. They have intensified their operations in other districts of the province as well. During their operations in (Waqab) District, the mujahidin shot down a jet fighter plane and a helicopter of the Kabul regime forces. According to reports, Kabul regime's forces have launched brutal attacks on the residential areas of Murghab, destroying several villages.

Mujahidin Leader Welcomes UN Resolution

BK0411005689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1935 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 3 (AFP)—The prime minister of the mujahidin's Afghan Interim Government (AIG) has welcomed the United Nations resolution recognizing the Islamic identity of Afghanistan and said it was "a step in the right direc[illegible]n", the resistance-run MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said Friday, 3 November.

But prime minister Rasul Sayyaf also said the world body should recognize the AIG "instead of passing resolutions."

Mr. Sayyaf again ruled out a dialogue with the "puppet regime in Kabul" which he said had lost its Islamic identity.

He said the eight-month old Sunni-dominated AIG was making efforts to bring other mujahidin groups into the resistance government's fold.

Afghan Shiite groups based in Iran have refrained from participating the interim government, complaining about a lack of representation.

In its resolution on Afghanistan adopted Tuesday, the U.N. General Assembly said that "preservation of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and the non-aligned and Islamic character of Afghanistan is essential for the peaceful solution" of the conflict.

Rules Out Dialogue With Najibullah

BK0411085089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister of the Afghanistan interim government, Professor 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, has stressed the need for the United Nations to respect the Afghan people's decision to set up an Islamic government by formally recognizing the interim government.

In a statement issued in Peshawar, he referred to the UN General Assembly's resolution regarding a dialogue between the Afghan factions and said if the resolution meant a dialogue between the mujahidin and Najibullah regime, it is not acceptable to the Afghan people. However, if the resolution meant a dialogue between Afghan groups carrying out a struggle for the independence of Afghanistan, the process has already started and will be completed in the near future.

High Command Issues Statement on 'Plunder'

LD0411230889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Statement by the High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan issued in Kabul on 4 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Our compatriots are aware that on 20 October 1989 a statement by the Republic of Afghanistan was broadcast to the people about the destructive activities of the armed groups of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and (Sufi Payenda) and their attempts to block the Kabul-Hayratan highway and plunder the convoys carrying UN goods. These moves have been organized by Pakistan's military intelligence service under the code number "Star Two." In the statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the compatriots learned about the plans of the Pakistani military intelligence service, the role of the armed groups of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the role of Pakistan's military intelligence service as the coordinators of the activities of the armed groups such as Hezb-e Eslami.

According to the information received, Pakistani militarists want to make the lives of our people miserable and create difficulties for them by using these armed groups and by again resorting to destruction and plunder.

Recently, in some villages in the regions of Khenjan to Do Shakh and Tangi Sayad in Kholm, a total of 53 vehicles carrying foodstuffs were stolen and the Kabul-Hayratan highway was closed for 10 days, blocking the transfer of foodstuffs to Kabul. The responsible security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, by following sincerely the national reconciliation policy in order to provide the people with the necessary primary goods and prevent any type of conflict and bloodshed—as mentioned in the statement by the Armed Forces High Command dated 25 January 1989—declared once again their trust and loyalty to the principles of talks and negotiation with the armed opposition groups along the Salang highway. They demanded that these groups refrain from any type of armed clashes, bloodshed, or slaughter and to stop plundering and stealing goods which belong mainly to the civilians, whose lives depend on them.

It became clear, however, that these armed groups were not acting independently, but were simply implementing the plans of Pakistan's militarists and were acting on their instructions. The participation of Ahmad Shah

Mas'ud's group in the "Star Two" plan clearly shows his connection with Pakistan's military intelligence service. It is also known that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has signed secret agreements with Saudi Arabia and has pledged to carry out the instructions given by Riyadh in exchange for Saudi assistance.

The people of Afghanistan are fully aware of the savagery and disrespect of the Wahhabi mercenaries toward the national and Islamic tenets of Afghans. Each rationally-minded Afghan, moreover, can clearly see the danger posed to our country by the secret deal of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud with the Saudis.

Therefore, this ringleader of the armed plunderers who was portraying himself as a so-called independent element, once again in order to attain his sinister goals and on the instructions of his foreign masters, by committing another crime not only sought to deprive the people of the provinces of Afghanistan from foodstuffs and fuel during the difficult days of winter but has also placed himself at the service of Saudi Wahhabis, and provides assistance to implement their sinister plans.

Under such conditions the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan were forced to use arms to defend the lawful rights of the people and create normal conditions to facilitate the passage of the foodstuff convoys and the transfer of UN aid to the citizens of Kabul and other cities.

As a result of the activities by the units and companies of the country's Armed Forces, 86 soldiers from the groups of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and (Sufi Payenda) were crushed and 12 were arrested. In addition, eight enemy headquarters, including the headquarters of (Sufi Payenda), were completely destroyed, and a large amount of arms and ammunition was seized from these highway robbers.

Within 5 days after the reopening of the Kabul-Hayratan highway, approximately 2,000 supply vehicles including foodstuffs and other necessities arrived in Kabul.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan High Command, following the humanitarian national reconciliation policy in order to prevent any type of bloodshed among the Afghans, addresses once again the armed opposition groups along the highway who create difficulties for our compatriots. The Armed Forces of our country, using the means at its disposal, will defend the peaceful life of the people and the public order and security and keep the Salang highway open to meet the vital needs of our compatriots. Of course, the responsibility for the grave consequences of any type of plundering activities will rest on the shoulders of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces and his partners in crime.

Soviet Planning Delegation Continues Meetings

BK0411093889 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The first deputy prime minister, Mahmud Barialay, on Thursday [2 November] received in his office the Soviet planning delegation led by F.V. Prosov, that is here on the invitation of the Planning Ministry. Present was also Sultan Husayn, minister of planning, during the meeting which focused on the Soviet economic cooperation in diverse spheres to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Another dispatch says that 'Amanudduin Amin, deputy prime minister, also met the Soviet visiting delegation on the same day in his office. They discussed the expansion of Soviet cooperation and assistance in trade, industrial, and financial spheres, extension of private sector activities, finalization of the technical documents of the projects of private sector which are planned to be set up with the use of the 50 million rubles credit of the Soviet Union.

Meets With Deputy Prime Minister

LD0511062289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 4, BAKHTAR—Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met in his office with F.V. Prosov, chairman of the delegation of the State Committee for Planning of the Soviet Union here today.

[Passage indistinct] of the provinces and republics of the Soviet Union with the provinces and cities of Afghanistan and other issues of mutual interest were discussed and views were exchanged.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

LD0511062689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 4, BAKHTAR—The ninth Afghan-Soviet cooperation protocol was concluded today in Kabul in the planning field between the Planning Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and USSR State Planning Committee in the Gol Khanah Palace of the Council of Ministers, reported a BAKHTAR correspondent.

The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Ahmad Fahim Marufi [name as received], deputy planning minister and from the Soviet side by F.V. Prosov, head of the delegation of the State Planning Committee of the Soviet Union.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy premier, Sultan Husayn, minister of planning of the RA, and deputy president of Soviet commercial representative in Kabul.

Holds Talks With Sorabi

LD0611063189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0536 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 5, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met in his office with the delegation of State Committee for Planning of the Soviet Union headed by F.V. Prosov, chairman of that committee here today.

During the meeting while Sultan Husayn, minister of the planning of the RA was present, matters relating to the economic cooperations of the Soviet Union in different spheres of the economic of the RA were discussed and views were exchanged. At the invitation of the Ministry of Planning of the RA, the Soviet delegation is currently on a official and friendly visit here.

India

Gandhi Issues Platform, Refuses Bofors Questions

BK0611090189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 6 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday released his party manifesto pledging to give power to the people and fight an opposition he claimed wanted to continue a "regime of power brokers."

Appearing at his first press conference in almost three years in his downtown Congress (I) Party headquarters here, Mr. Gandhi refused to discuss the Bofors kickback scandal that has plagued him for the past three years.

India's diverse opposition parties, fighting Mr. Gandhi in what promises to be one of the toughest Indian elections ever November 22-24-26, charge that Mr. Gandhi was personally involved in the kickback scandal in the purchase of field guns from the Swedish arms firm Bofors.

"I am laying down the rules for this press conference," the premier said. "If I answer other questions... you won't cover the manifesto.

"This election is, above all, a struggle between the Congress (I) which wants to give power to the people and the opposition which wants to continue the regime of the power brokers."

Mr. Gandhi, 45, made a call for early general elections on October 17, shortly after Parliament rejected a bill that would have devolved power to village units, with opposition members charging the bill would take power away from the country's 25 states and give more power to the central government. He also pledged to tackle the problem of corruption but said the prime cause was the fact that people did not have power, a clear reference to his defeated bill.

"We brought in a bill that would have removed the power brokers, but unfortunately the opposition stood by them," he said Monday.

Observers noted that the prime minister had returned to the theme that won him instant popularity when he was elected on a sympathy wave following the assassination of his mother, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

At that time he also pledged that the party would "eliminate power brokers" and bring a clean government to the nation.

The premier whose public image since then has plunged under the shadow of the Bofors scandal, also promised to convert state radio and television into corporations. The move was seen here as an obvious attempt to defuse an outcry by opposition parties over the censoring of references to Bofors in their televised and broadcast camapign messages. Most of the major opposition parties are currently boycotting the two state stations.

The 20-minute press conference was marred by the fact that some 300 journalists and photographers, many of whom had been waiting almost two hours for the prime minister to arrive started to stage a walkout, shouting "who does he think he is (to keep us waiting.)"

Congress (I) officials appeared to be failing in their attempt to turn the irate journalists back when the prime minister's car rolled up to the gate of the party headquarters.

Ceremony at Disputed Temple; Troops Deployed

BK0511080689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, processions and public meetings have been banned to maintain peace and order in Faisabad and Ayodhya. District administration sources say the steps have been taken in view of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [Hindu communal organization] foundation-laying ceremony for the Ram Janma Bhumi temple [site disputed between Hindus and Muslims] and some left parties' communal harmony rally on the 9th of this month. The administration has deployed 80 companies of paramilitary forces, including provincial armed constabulary, in the area.

The state home secretary, Mr S.K. Tripathy; and the director general of police, Mr R.P. Joshi, yesterday visited the Ram Janma Bhumi Babri masjid [mosque] site and other important places and reviewed the security measures.

Tight security arrangements have been made in Calcutta in view of the proposed religious program by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad today.

States Directed To Monitor 'Communal Tensions'

BK0611075589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] States have been directed to keep a close watch on miscreants who are out to whip up communal tensions. According to the official sources, the Center has asked the state governments not to take any chance in view of the supercharged atmosphere in and around Ayodhya [the seat of a disputed shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] and the poll campaign.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, had held a high-level meeting with the Uttar Pradesh government officials, and it was attended by the union cabinet secretary and the home secretary. The sources say that the Home Ministry has been monitoring all developments in

Ayodhya regularly. The Center has also provided the state governments with additional paramilitary forces for maintaining law and order.

Former District Judge Shot Dead in Srinagar

BK0411125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, some unidentified gunmen shot dead ex-district and sessions judge, Mr Neelkant Ganju, in Harisingh High Street, Srinagar, this afternoon. Director General of Police Mr Ghulam Jilani Pandit told our Srinagar correspondent that one more person was injured in the shooting. He told that gunmen fired several shots on Mr Ganju who was immediately taken to hospital where he was declared dead. Police have cordoned off the area and combing operations started. Our correspondent adds that Mr Neelkant Ganju had delivered a judgment against the extremist Maqbul Bhatt who was responsible for killing a CID [Criminal Investigation Department] officer and was hanged in Tihar Jail [in New Delhi] some time back. Many attempts were made on the life of Mr Ganju in the past.

The state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has expressed shock at the killing of Mr Neelkant Ganju. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said those responsible for the dastardly crime will have to face the consequences according to the law of the land.

Iran

Information Ministry on CIA 'Agents' Execution

LD0511174789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] A responsible official in the Ministry of Information announced today: Four agents of the American espionage organization, the CIA, by the names of Turaj Riyahi, son of 'Abbas 'Ali; Kiyanush Hakimi-Bushehri, son of Mohammad; Ardeshir Ashraf; and Ebrahim Moshtaqi, who had been detained some time ago on the charge of spying for the espionage and terrorism organizaion, the CIA, and who had given valuable information to the United States during the imposed war, were sentenced to death on the basis of the verdict issued by the judicial officials of the special war tribunal. Their sentence was carried out on 4 November.

The official added: The United States used the information gained through those people to help Iraq during the imposed war and towards the collection of information for terrorist and interfering actions.

Reportage, Comment on 4 Nov Anniversary

Embassy Occupation Viewed

LD0311211589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1632 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tomorrow coincides with the 10th anniversary of the seizure of America's den of espionage in Tehran. On that great day, the myth of America's invincibility came to an end, and the era of submission to tyranny came to a close. The roars of "Death to America" were realized, and a revolution greater than the first one took place. This action, which was praised by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—entailed many domestic and foreign repercussions. Among the most significant domestic repercussions was the exposing of the identities and currents of the usurpers. The documents seized, while exposing individuals and currents set to deliver a blow to the Islamic revolution, proved that America's den of espionage, under the name of an embassy, was in fact a center for the expansion of espionage activities in our country. The books compiled on the seized documents reveal a chain of treacherous and espionage activities masterminded by the American Embassy in Tehran. This valuable collection is indicative of the nature of the illegal operations and activities of the U.S. Government under the cover of its political attachment in Tehran, and are in visible contradiction with the established official limits and obligations permissible under diplomatic cover. The ban on taking those books inside America clearly shows that the U.S. government has no valid reason for the expansion of its illegal activities in Tehran, and that despite claiming liberty, it has banned the import and publication of the documents from the den of espionage inside its territory.

While the Majlis has named the 13 Aban [4 November] the day of combating arrogance, every year millions of people in our country have celebrated the great memory of the seizure of the U.S. den of espionage, and paid tribute to it as a great event which in the gracious words of Imam Khomeyni, was a revolution greater than the first one.

The seizure of the den of espionage removed the danger of annihilation of the Islamic revolution of the people of Iran, and led to the strengthening and consolidation of this revolution. The corrupt and affiliated elements, and also grouplets lacking in identity, which were arrayed as part of America's conspiracy against the revolution, were crushed and banished, and the strength of the revolution was guaranteed. Among the most significant foreign consequences of this action was the crushing of the superpower magnificence of America. America's magnificence was crushed to such an extent that similar incidents occurred against that country's embassies in various parts of the world. Recurrence of such incidents were a consequence of the revolutionary initiative of the students following the Imam's line. The Muslims found the strength to struggle against the U.S. intervention in their territories, and protest against the illegal activities of the U.S. spies who worked under diplomatic cover.

Much has been said in the analysis of the seizure of the den of espionage in Tehran, the 10th anniversary of which is currently being celebrated. A great number of international observers reiterate that this action shook the world, and its repercussions went beyond the Iranian

boundaries, leaving its marks on world history. The speediest repercussion of the seizure of the den of spies, within America, was that of Carter's defeat. Carter as the U.S. President, in the wake of his victory in signing the Camp David accords, was ranked among the most successful presidents in that country's history. However, the developments in Iran following the revolution, and Carter's defeat in the case of the U.S. spies' arrest in Tehran, brought about his political defeat, hence preventing his reelection as the U.S. President. Carter's government became totally incapacitated in the wake of the military defeat of his attack on Tabas. Moreover, the failure of the Tabas operation was yet another failure in America's foreign policy.

The American Government's desperation reached such a stage that Carter would accept any suggestion that might have saved him. The documents published by the Muslim students following the imam's line on various subjects reveal various domestic and foreign currents, and disclose the principles of the U.S. foreign policy in terms of safeguarding the plundering interests of that country. Some of these documents reveal clandestine intelligence on conversations held between a number of U.S. diplomats, a number of secret U.S. threats, and a number of guidelines and advice.

Among the documents found in the den of spies is a piece of evidence left by one of the spies. This spy wrote: "I have in mind at least two scenarios and projects, which can lead to mayhem and the gradual toppling of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system."

In another document it is written: "Any moderate and Western- orientated group that embarks on struggle against the clerics will be willingly propogated by us as a progressive group."

In connection with this, the U.S. ringleaders have constantly tried to increase political pressures on the Islamic Republic in any possible way. However, they have always met with defeat in trying to do so. The nation, alongside the leadership, did not step out of the Islamic path at any time, and continued on that path, steadfast and unwavering.

In his speech delivered on the eve of the anniversary of 13 Aban, His Eminence Ayatolah Khamene'i ascribed the reasons behind adhering to principles and constancy of the trend of the Islamic revolution to the nature of a school such as Islam. He has graciously said: The Iranian nation's struggle is one which is not based on slogans or sentiments. It is not a seasonal or tactical struggle, but a Koranic struggle, a profound struggle with ideological roots.

Spy Documents Center Opened

LD0411163189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Inspired by the national day of struggle against global arrogance, a center for the publication of U.S. den of spies' documents was opened today. Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic Guidance; Fallahiyan, minister of intelligence; Musavi Kho'iniha, head of the Strategic Studies Center, and a number of Majlis deputies attended the opening ceremony.

According to a Central News Unit report, the most important and confidential documents taken from the U.S. den of spies, which show that country's crimes and conspiracies against the system of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution, are available at the center in more than 68 volumes.

Also, in an exhibition staged by the Inteligence Ministry in the building of the former U.S. den of spies, documents from the last days of the Pahlavi regime as related by the SAVAK [former regime's security force] and the CIA, pictures of the occupation of the den of spies and of the abortive U.S. attack on Tabas, reports on U.S. terrorist operations, and SAVAK documents about the leaders of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, as well as SAVAK's links with other spy organizations, are exhibited. The public exhibition is open for 1 week.

Exhibit on Failed Rescue Attempt

LD0411164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—The former compounds of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran is now showing pictures and documents evidencing U.S. schemes against the Islamic Republic since the revolution.

An exhibition at the embassy compounds which opened today on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its seizure by the Muslim students following the imam's line is made in fact in the form of a museum of post-revolution relations between Iran and the U.S.

Aside from the pictures and documents the museum also displays artifacts, and models of the various aircraft which invaded Iran on April 25, 1980 in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran.

Jimmy Carter radioed his order for aborting the plan in the early morning of April 25 in the wake of a collision between one U.S. chopper and another parked aircraft at a neglected airfield near the desert city of Tabas in northeast Iran which took the lives of a number of young U.S. servicemen.

The museum also depicts actual pieces of an Iranian Airbus which was hit on July 3, 1988 by a missile launched from the "USS Vincennes" at the strait of Hormuz. The passenger aircraft disintegrated in the air over Iran's territorial waters killing all of her crew and passengers of 290.

The exhibition also features 68 volumes of top secret documents discovered at the embassy in the wake of its

seizure by the Muslim students. The bulk of the documents which evidence U.S. involvement in intelligentsia [as received] operations in Iran are reconstructed versions of shredded originals.

In a related report Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Khatami visited the compounds of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran today and reflected proudly on its take-over. He said the policy of non-compromise with the U.S. has its roots in the doctrines of the Islamic revolution. He said no revolution anywhere in the world is a true revolution unless it is heartily committed to struggling against the United States as a symbol of struggle against modern day suppression.

The minister who was talking to reporters lauded the publishing of U.S. intelligentsia documents in Tehran, saying that modern nations, and especially those who suffer the burden of U.S. oppression are very much interested in reading the documents and would willingly reproduce them in their own countries and public knowledge once and if they receive a sample copy of each book.

He said despite the bans on the books in the United States and other countries with governments leaning towards the United States, the documents have already been translated and published in several languages other than English and Persian.

Mohtashemi Speaks at Rally

LD0411181589 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov 4, IRNA—Islamic Iran on Saturday witnessed one of the most sensational demonstrations ever held against the United States since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The 13th of Aban (November 4) marks the 10th anniversary of the takeover of the former U.S. Embassy or den of espionage in Tehran by Muslim students following the imam's death. In Tehran, hundreds of thousands of people from various walks of life including students, pupils and educational officials, marched from Tehran University to the former U.S. den of espionage.

The demonstrators, chanting 'Death to the U.S.' slogan and carrying portraits of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni and his successor Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, displayed their deep-rooted hatred of the 'Great Satan.'

The day also recalls the exile to Turkey of the late Imam Khomeyni in 1963 by the former Pahlavi regimes as well as the massacre of a group of pupils by the royal guards at Tehran University campus in 1976.

Simultaneously with the rally, an exhibition displaying documents on U.S. crimes against Islamic Iran and the Iranian nation opened in the compounds of the former embassy.

On display were parts of the wreckage of an Iranian A-300 Airbus which was missiled down by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf on July 3, 1988, killing all the 290 passengers and crew members aboard the plane.

While inspecting the traces of the U.S. crimes, the visitors also listened to the confessions of several recently-arrested U.S. spies broadcast on loud speakers.

Besides chanting anti-U.S., anti-Zionism and anti-colonialism slogans, the demonstrators commemorated the martyrdom of university and high school students gunned down by the shah's royal guards.

Some banners were seen in the hands of demonstrators reading 'We will stand against the U.S. to the last drop of our blood.'

The former U.S. den of espionage on Taleqani Street in Central Tehran and its surrounding areas were packed with angry demonstrators who shouted 'Death to the U.S.' Some 160 U.S. flags and many effigies of Uncle Sam were set on fire in front of the former embassy.

A student with a picture of President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his hand told IRNA that "the U.S. was wrong in thinking that after the demise of the late imam our struggle against arrogance would come to an end."

A Navy officer in uniform who was among the demonstrators said "I can never forget the U.S. crimes and its military build-up in the Persian Gulf." The officer said he was ready to take any measures, either individually or in group, against Washington's hostile policies.

Carrying a burning U.S. flag, another student said "true that we hate the U.S. leaders who are the main architect of all plots against the oppressed nations, but this does not mean we hate the American people as well."

"We know that the American people are unaware of what is going on in the U.S. Administration. They, too, have been deceived by leaders of arrogance."

The student called on the Americans to put pressure on their leaders to discontinue conspiring against the oppressed nations.

What attracted the attention of reporters most, was the presence of young boys and girls wearing the masks of Ronald Reagan and George Bush and raising their clinched fists in the air as a sign of protest against the United States.

A 25-year-old girl student, who participated in the rally along with other members of her family, called on Iranian officials to keep alive the people's anti-arrogance spirit. She thanked the Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) for its "revolutionary action" in passing a law calling for stepped up efforts to counter U.S.-sponsored terrorism.

The ceremony was formally inaugurated at 1510 hours local time (1140 GMT) with recitation of a few verses

from the holy Koran. Then, the message of the Union of Islamic Associations of Students was read, paying glowing tribute to their classmates martyred in 1976.

Addressing the huge crowd in front of the former U.S. Embassy, the ex-minister of the interior lashed out at the U.S. Administration for its interferences in the internal affairs of other countries, and voiced support for the law passed by the Majlis on countering U.S. terrorism.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who wound up a month-long tour of Lebanon, said "in Lebanon, men and women, grouped in Hizbollah cells, are waiting to ambush Israel, America and their mercenaries. They are waiting for an order of the leader of world Muslims to launch their attack on Israel, U.S. and their mercenaries."

Rejecting the decisions made at the al-Ta'if conference, he quoted Lebanese Muslims as saying they would continue to fight Israel, the United States and their agents until the sectarian system is eliminated and the flag of Islam is hoisted in Lebanon and Palestine.

Mohtashemi made it clear that Lebanese Muslims would never bow to the decisions made by those claiming to be members of parliament but who actually served the U.S. interests.

He said the capture of the U.S. den of espionage in Tehran in 1979 served to shatter America's myth and exposed its hollowness to the world.

Paying homage to those killed by mercenaries of the United States on this day ten years ago, the former interior minister said the 13th of Aban gave a lesson to those who want to live free from oppression.

Similar ceremonies were held throughout the country.

Tehran TV Notes Mohtashemi Speech

LD0411183289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the exile of the great leader of the Islamic revolution [Khomeyni], the 11th anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. den of spies, and the national day for the fight against global arrogance, the various classes of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Tehran marched in the streets of Tehran today and gathered in front of the U.S. den of spies to demonstrate their anger and hatred for the inhuman, terrorist, and hegemonistic policies of the United States.

During the ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi addressed the crowd and said: Under the banner of pure Muhammadan Islam and the leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni and concerning issues such as capitulation, the massacre of students and the occupation of the U.S. den of spies, the Muslim people of Iran stood up to world- devouring America and defeated her. He added: Today, the ideas of his eminence the imam have taken root in the hearts of Muslims and all liberals of the world. All those who traverse the path of the Imam of the ummah—under the leadership of His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and under the banner of the anti-arrogant system of the Islamic Republic of Iran—are fully prepared to confront the conspiracies of global arrogance and attain all the lofty goals of the islamic revolution.

At the end of the march a 14-point resolution was read out. Stressing that the struggle of the Iranian national against the United States will continue under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, the resolution condemns the recent approval by the U.S. Senate of kidnapping and other terrorist activities by U.S. agents and of the destruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque by the regime occupying Jeruselam. The resolution states: The fight against the Zionist regime of Israel and the criminal Saudi regime is part and parcel of the struggle against the Great Satan.

The resolution also supports the new government, headed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the Majlis deputies, and stresses the importance of establishing economic security.

Program on 'U.S. Spies'

LD0411175189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1641 GMT 2 Nov 89

["America: Conspiracy and Aggression" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] The U.S. Government which, under the pretext of national interests, tramples upon the most basic rights of other countries and violates human rights and the dignity of human beings, engages in the recruitment of spies in order to topple and destroy the governments of Third World countries, in addition to being engaged in formal spying in some countries in order to obtain industrial and military intelligence.

While in some countries, such as Eastern bloc countries and the Soviet Union, the United States engages in obtaining intelligence and in carrying out spying activities in accordance with its true and original definition, in Third World countries the United States makes use of the weapon of espionage in order to topple popular regimes. Contrary to usual practice, therefore, these spies are treated as an operational and sabotage group, and by providing them with military training and methods of sabotage, the United States engages in overt interference in the internal affairs of those countries.

Sabotage operations, parachutists' training and landing, making use of various weapons, as well as the preparation of certain locations for the landing of U.S. parachutists, are among the methods which have been used by the Americans for clear interference in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After this introduction we will listen to the confessions of one of the U.S. spies who, with the aim of toppling the Islamic Republic, was provided with military training by the U.S. CIA. I should also explain that starting tonight and for a period of 3 nights, we shall broadcast the confessions of U.S. spies on the Channel 1. I invite you to watch the first part of this program.

[Rahro] I, 'Ali Asghar Rahro, am a resident of Tabriz. I visited Turkey in 1985 in order to increase my income. There I met one of my friends who had fled from the country in the wake of the dissolution of the Muslim People's Party [Hezb-e Khalq-e Mosalman]. Having heard the reason for my visit to Turkey, he said: Why don't you come to work with us to increase your income?

I said: Why? What is it that you do?

He said: There are some persons here who are willing to pay a monthly income to those willing to play an active part against the communist and Russian infiltration of the country.

Because I had no purpose other than to increase my income, I agreed to cooperate with them. My friend agreed to make the preliminary arrangements. He arranged a meeting between me and one of those Americans to be held in Istanbul. After a brief preamble, the American elaborated on the Soviet and Russian infiltration of Iran. Having heard his promises and assurances I agreed to cooperate with them, in other words, with the CIA.

Following the preliminaries, they tested me with a device which was attached to my head and body, and said: Now that you have passed a lie-detector test, you may cooperate with us. Then they put me through a training course, after which it was decided that in my next meeting—the date of which was to be disclosed to me through a letter writen in invisible ink—I should compile and submit to them some information on the ways the Russians and the communists operate in Iran, on the situation and on conditions there, as well as on the situation of the inhabitants of East Azarbayjan.

My second visit, of which I was informed through a letter written in invisible ink, took place in Turkey. There, I was informed of my transfer to one of their training centers where I was to undergo a commando training course. They supplied me with a forged passport and after a few days, I was sent to West Germany. There, they put me inside a station wagon from which it was not possible to see outside. They transferred me to a new place about 2 hours away from the previous one. I think that this new area was an airbase, bacause I could hear the sound of aircraft and helicopters. While we were inside the car, it drove inside an aircraft where we then disembarked and were led into a small room. [sentence as heard] I was not aware of the time, as they had confiscated our belongings including our watches.

The aircraft took off. I do not know how long the journey was, but it was quite long. When it landed, we left the aircraft, still sitting inside the car. After a short distance, they transferred us from the car into a helicopter. Throughout this period they placed special hoods on our heads which prevented us from seeing anything. The helicopter took off, but again, because I did not have my watch, I did not know how long I had been travelling. When the helicopter landed, they transferred us from the helicopter into a van. After a distance of approximately 1 kilometer they allowed us to remove the hood because we had arrived at the final destination, which was the base for military and terrorist training. The base was situated in a square area surrounded by high mountains. There was a barbed-wire perimeter fence. The climate was very warm and easterly.

[Words indistinct] indicated it was very easy to rearrange the entire base. The base comprised various sections: a sleeping area, dining area, training area, shooting area, and an area for parachute training, and so on. The entire base was staffed by Americans. I think all the support staff, kitchen staff, were of other nationalities. The Americans prevented us from meeting them, and they told us to be careful so as not to be seen by them.

In the course of our stay there, we were trained by American forces in the use of guns, shooting with various kinds of weapons, [words indistinct], how to land a helicopter, and parachuting at night and during the day, first-aid, [word indistinct], and in providing assistance.

Afterwards we were transferred to West Germany, and then to Turkey, in the same way as before. In Turkey we were told that on arrival in Iran we should report to our team leader, whose name and address they had given us, and should work under his instructions. From then on, I conducted my activities under the supervision of the group leader, alongside the rest of the group, while compiling intelligence on the subjects in which the Americans were interested. I also embarked on identifying the East Azarbayjan routes.

The Americans conducted their meetings with us, both in West Germany and Turkey, without any fear of their respective police forces. For example, when it was decided to send me to Germany for commando training, they took away my passport and replaced it with a forged passport in which a West German visa was stamped. I asked them: Would I not be arrested by the Turkish police on departure, and likewise by the German police, on arrival? They replied: You can rest assured that this will not happen. And it did not. Nothing happened which we were in Germany, nor when we returned to Turkey.

[Moqaddam-Tabrizi] I, Kazam Afkhami Moqaddam-Tabrizi, alias Siavosh, was arrested on 27 September 1988 in Mashhad on charges of cooperation with the CIA. I, Airforce Colonel Mas'ud Baba'i, son of Mohammad, born in Neyshabur, travelled to Turkey about 2 years ago for commercial purposes on a purchasing trip, and there I became acquainted with an Iranian who was

a member of the CIA organization. He established contacts between me and them.

[Announcer] America: hypocrisy and aggression—tomorrow night after the news bulletin on the TV Channel 1.

[Unidentified speaker] This is an American crime, death to America.

[Moqaddam-Tabrizi] Try not to be entrapped in the spider's web of espionage terrorists, because if entrapped all the golden dreams will be turned into a hellish nightmare.

[Announcer] America: crime [as heard] and aggression: This is the title of the program which will be broadcast tomorrow night after the news bulletin on Channel 1.

Commentary on Capture of Embassy

LD0411143989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Greetings, dear listeners. By holding the special ceremonies marking 13 Aban [4 Nov] today, the Iranian nation once again displays its unwavering will to continue the path of Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—in confronting global arrogance, headed by the world devourer United States. [passage omitted]

The capture of the U.S. espionage den, termed by the founder of the Islamic Republic as the second revolution, one even bigger than the first, frustrated U.S. plots to threaten the revolution and isolate the revolutionary forces, and in so doing prevented history repeating itself: It did not allow events of 19 August 1953 to be repeated.

The myth of U.S. invincibility and untrue power—a myth propogated to influence the world's minds—was exposed by the move of the students following the imam's line. Thus, the destruction of U.S. superpower prestige in the eyes of everyone enabled the weak and victimized nations of the world to realize that by relying on their own power they could stand up against the most powerful world power and accomplish a successful campaign.

The capture of the den of spies, which demonstrated the anti-arrogant face of the Islamic revolution, and which in practice showed the inherent enmity of the revolution to arrogance, led to the severance of all political, economic, and military ties between Iran and the U.S. Since then, the issue of relations between Iran and the United States has always been of interest to analysts.

Today, 10 years after the capture of the den of spies, one can say, with due attention to the events which have taken place and the nature of the Islamic revolution, that the Islamic Republic will never lay down the flag of campaign against global arrogance. This stems from the fact that global arrogance, headed by the United States, has proved during the past years that it never abandons plotting against the Islamic revolution. Assigning CIA spies to make up for America's lost opportunities in Iran must be seen against such a background. It proves that despite the Algiers statement, the United States has interfered in Iran's domestic affairs.

Because such plots are being hatched, it is imperative the Islamic Republic always maintains the principle of campaign against plotters in its policy making. Meanwhile, the Islamic revolution, which is based on the principles of the divine school of Islam, has an inherent nature of opposing arrogance. The Islamic Republic devises its policies on this basis, and thus it requires that the perpetual campaign against global arrogance, with the United States at its head, continues. [passage omitted]

Occupation, Khomeyni Exile Viewed

NC0411151789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Untitled Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. On the 13th of Aban [4 November] simultaneous with the anniversary of the exile of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Republic, the U.S. den of espionage in Tehran was occupied by a group of Muslim students, followers of the imam's line. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage was the most effective measure of the Muslim Iranian nation in its struggle against U.S. plots within the country and the greatest blow to the political prestige of its echelons. Ever since, U.S. imperialism lost its last hopes of ever being able to interfere in the affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Encouraging the Iraqi regime to attack Iran was the result of the United States' most pessimistic analysis of wielding any kind of influence in Iran and renewed pillage or toppling the Islamic Republic's system. The U.S. echelons believed that this was how they could weaken the determination of the Muslim Iranian nation to continue its struggle against world arrogance, and by resorting to massive military operations from abroad, they could defeat the Islamic revolution or they would force it to succumb to its imperialist policies. [passage omitted]

In addition to U.S. military aggression against the Islamic revolution, the CIA espionage organization has been involved in extensive activity in Iran in recent years. Fortunately, a vast network has been unearthed by Iranian intelligence officials and the members of this network have each admitted to espionage activities and have explained U.S. intervention in Iran.

On the other hand, the approval of a bill by the U.S. House of Representatives and the support by the Democrats of the counterrevolutionary grouplets against the Islamic Republic of Iran is yet another of the numerous examples of overt U.S. activities. [passage omitted]

In the light of the recent remarks of the leader of the Iranian revolution, the future prospect of the Islamic revolution's movement is completely clear. For a long-term campaign against world arrogance, the intensive recognition of world arrogance, vigilance, and an evaluation of the complicated ways of cultural and economic infiltration of world arrogance in our country are absolutely imperative.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Visits Khomeyni Shrine

LD0411130489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] This morning, simultaneous with the anniversary exile of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, which took place at the hands of the American agents, and the national day of struggle against arrogance, spearheaded by world devourer America, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, presented himself at the immaculate shrine of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, may God's benedictions be upon him, and prayed beside the immaculate dust of his eminence and honored the memory of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the idol-smashing Khomeyni.

According to the same report, the leader of the Islamic revolution then went to the section at Behesht-e Zahra cemetry for the martyrs of 28 June 1981 [anniversary of the bomb explosion at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters] and honored the memory of 72 meek martyrs of the explosion at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters, Martyr Beheshti, Martyr Raja'i, and Martyr Bahonar in particular. Then he went to the graves of the brave commanders of Islam, Martyrs Chamran, Fallahi, Kolahdust, Namju, Fakuri, and other martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war. He asked Almighty God for happiness for the immaculate souls of those dear ones.

The leaders of the Islamic revolution also went to the grave of the combatant clergy, the late Ayatollah Taleqani, and honored the memory of epic making and self sacrifices by the ones who are lying in their own blood for the Islamic revolution in struggle against global arogance which is spearheaded by America and its stooges.

President on Reconstruction, 4 Nov Anniversary

LD0411195189 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today called for speeding up the rebuilding of war-damaged areas and said the reconstruction activities should go ahead according to the scheduled time-table.

'Reconstructuring the war ruins is among the most effective means of campaign against global arrogance and the U.S.,' the president told a group of officials, among them the governor-general of Khuzestan as well as officials in charge of reconstructing Khorramshahr and Abadan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said 'people should know that reconstruction of the ruins left by the war is a thorn in the side of arrogance, reaction and Zionism which by imposing the war (on Iran) intended to destroy our country.'

On the November 4 anniversary, the president reiterated that 'the strong and fervent feelings expressed by the people against the U.S. on this day once more proved that they are still present in the scene like before.'

Kho'iniha Praises Majlis Law on U.S. Citizens

LD0311163889 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Member of the Expediency Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi Kho'iniha Friday praised the Majlis for its "suitable, strong and revolutionary reaction" to a new U.S. attempt to universalise the capitulation, or immunity for American citizens.

The U.S. President has been authorised by the Congress to issue orders for the arrest and kidnapping of "suspected terrorists" regardless of their nationalities and without the permission of the country of their residence. Kho'iniha said the move violated the prestige of all nations and was a disrespect to sovereignty of other nations.

The law passed by the Majlis and endorsed by the Council of Guardians gives the Iranian president the permission to carry out reciprocal measures against U.S. citizens who somehow harmed Iranians or put Iran's interests at stake.

Addressing Friday prayer-goers at Tehran University, Kho'iniha expressed surprise at the silence of other governments, including the East bloc and particularly the Soviet Union.

He also lashed out at those claiming that the U.S. was not hostile to the Iranian nation and that it was Iran which opposed the U.S.

He said undoubtedly the U.S. itself was behind such a view. If some make such remarks they are knowingly or unknowingly influenced by U.S. agents, he added.

Kho'iniha who led the Muslim students following the imam's line in their 1979 seizure the U.S. Embassy, stressed that the campaign against the U.S. and arrogance should be set as an Islamic, divine and political culture among all nations.

Daily Terms U.S. Decision 'Law of Jungle'

LD0511140489 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT said in an editorial today that a recent congressional decision which gives the U.S. Government extraterritorial rights for prosecution of international citizens by abduction is meant to be applied to revolutionaries and popular strugglers who fight against colonialism.

It said the decision in fact does not entitle the U.S. Government to do anything that it has not yet done in other countries, but that it is simply an official license to continue to do that which it has customarily but secretly been doing in other countries.

This so called "legislation" is not legislation but more aptly the law of the jungle—a law giving special rights to the stronger only because he is the stronger. If any other country had officially announced such a decision, then heaven knows what the propaganda and political machinery of the West would have done to that nation, whereas today many of the forerunners in the struggle against oppressive policies in the world and against interference in the internal affairs of other countries have assumed total silence.... Is this situation not sufficient justification for those who glorify November 4th as the anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. espionage den and the unveiling of this world-devouring monster?"

More on Visit of Soviet Foreign Trade Minister

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0411184489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Chairman Katushev. The meeting began with Mr Katushev conveying the warm greetings of Mr Gorbachev. He then described the ties between the two friendly neighbors, Iran and USSR, as very good and improving. He said: Mr Gorbachev has declared that establishing good-neighborly relations with Iran is a Soviet strategic principle.

Expressing his gratitude to Mr Gorbachev for his warm greetings and his satisfaction about the growing trend of cooperation between the two countries, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Thanks to the efforts of the two countries, I hope that we will soon witness the most unprecedented and continued cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

He added: We carefully follow your internal events and those of your other friends in the Eastern bloc. We find these events positive and fruitful. Of course, such revolutionary actions result in certain problems. Please convey our greetings to Mr Gorbachev and say that the experience of the Islamic Republic could be beneficial in making socioeconomic decisions in your present stage. Undoubtedly, you will not convert from Marxism to capitalism; you will choose an intermediate stage. We are willing to cooperate closely with you in this matter.

Finally, he expressed the hope that Iran and USSR would step up their cooperation in preserving the environment and stemming the flow of water in the Caspian Sea.

Further on 4 Nov Meeting

LD0411222289 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said Iran was "carefully watching" the internal developments in the Soviet Union and its allies in the East Bloc. "We regard these developments as quite positive and useful," the president told the Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev here.

"Of course," the president added, "such revolutionary measures entail some problems and increase the people's expectations... but the people will realise the realities and extend cooperation."

"Extend our greetings to Mr Gorbachev and tell him that in your economic-social decision-makings at this stage, the Islamic Republic of Iran's experiences can be useful. You will definitely not be transferred from Marxism to capitalism, and (instead) would opt for a stage in between," the president told Katushev.

He said Iran had experienced this intermediate stage over the past ten years (after the victory of the Islamic revolution) and "we know the strong and weak points of this stage very well and are willing to have close cooperation with you in this regard."

The president also expressed satisfaction with the progressing trend of mutual cooperation and hoped that the history of the two countries would witness the most unprecedented cooperation.

Reporting on his talks with the Iranian officials Katushev said "we are happy that bilateral relations are quickly expanding."

"Good neighbourly relations with Iran is one of the strategic principles of the Soviet Union," he quoted the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as saying.

"Upon your initiation, Iran will resume gas export to the Soviet Union and via our country to other states, in a near future," the Soviet minister said.

The president also called for stepped-up cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in the protection of the environment, checking the advance of water in the Caspian Sea as well as preservation of its coasts.

Agreement Signed on Gas Export

LD0411223789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Soviet and Iranian Government today signed an agreement worth more than $6 million for the export of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union and cooperation in the implementation of at least 19 large projects, including the construction of power stations, dams, and railways, and also agreements on the expansion of power stations. Here is our correspondent's report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Following talks at various levels between Iranian and Soviet officials, in Moscow and Tehran, an agreement on the export of Iranian natural gas in exchange for the services, equipment, and machinery required to implement industrial and economic projects in the Islamic Republic, and two agreements on the expansion of the Ramin power station in Ahvaz and the Shahid Montazeri power station in Esfahan were signed today between the two countries. The agreement for the export of natural gas to the USSR was signed for Iran by Finance Minister Nurbakhsh and for the USSR by Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Katushev. The agreements on the expansion of the Ramin and Shahid Montazeri power stations were signed for Iran by official of the Tavanir company, and for the USSR by officials of (Technokrom Export). Mr Nurbakhsh, please give us details of the agreements.

[Nurbakhsh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Katushev came to Iran on an official invitation to sign an agreement, the main points of which had been signed by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev, the details of which were to be determined. The agreement initially covers the export of 2 billion cubic meters of gas beginning next Farvadin [month beginning 21 March], increasing to 3 billion cubic meters. [passage omitted]

In addition to the agreements signed, a memorandum was exchanged between myself and Mr Katushev, which authorizes us to export our gas to Europe via Soviet soil.

[Correspondent] in an interview with reporters, Mr Katushev commented on the agreements signed between the two countries: The present agreement is based on the understanding reached during talks between Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev. It is a major document on long-term cooperation between the two countries, until the beginning of the 21st Century. The important characteristic of this stage of ties between the two countries is goodneighborly relations between the two countries and the two nations.

He added: That trend of reconstruction and the more extensive facilities placed at the disposal of Soviet organizations and institutes will make possible cooperation in the joint manufacture of some goods and in the future, the setting up of various companies and institutes by the two countries.

Ambassador to Abu Dhabi Meets With UAE Rulers

LD0411185789 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Ruler of 'Ajman of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has stressed Iran's effective and key role in various regional issues and described the Islamic Republic as a "powerful and rich Muslim neighbour."

Shaykh Humayd Ibn-Rashid al-Nu'aymi in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Abu Dhabi Mohammad 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi on Saturday also termed the two countries' ties as "excellent", calling for further expansion of joint cooperation in various areas.

Meanwhile, Hadi Najafabadi met the ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah Shaykh Saqr Ibn-Muhammad al-Qasimi the same day. Shaykh Saqr termed the full implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 as a fundamental step towards the establishment of a lasting peace in the region. He expressed hope the efforts taken so far would be successful.

Expansion of Iran-UAE relations will strengthen the "pillars of security and stability" in the region, the shaykh said placing stress on the need for promotion of Tehran-Abu Dhabi ties. Talks were also held at the meeting on issues of mutual concern.

Velayati Leaves for 3-day Visit to Algeria

LD0611110689 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Algiers Monday morning on a three-day visit at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart Boualem Bessaieh [name as received].

Velayati is to discuss with Algerian officials further expansion of bilateral relations and also the latest developments in implementation of the Resolution 598.

In an interview before departure, he said that he will raise with Algerian officials cooperation of the two countries in regional and international issues especially those of Palestine, North Africa, Non-Aligned Movement and Lebanon.

He also expressed the hope that during the visit preparations will be made for holding of the second session of joint Tehran-Algiers Economic Commission.

Asked about the implementation of the resolution and a possible role by Algeria in this connection, Velayati said that as a member of the Security Council Algeria could play an important role.

UN Special Envoy Eliasson Arrives in Tehran

LD0311144589 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here Friday afternoon heading a six-man delegation to hold talks with Iranian officials.

His talks here will cover ways of implementing the U.N. Security Council resolution 598 seeking an end to eight years of bloody hostilities between Iran and Iraq. The delegation visited Baghdad before arriving here.

Eliasson and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will start their talks on execution of 598 and ways to eliminate the obstacles created by the Iraqi regime Saturday morning.

Eliasson and his entourage were greeted at the airport by deputy foreign minister for international affairs, Manuchehr Mottaki.

Interior Minister Comments on Mid-Term Elections

NC0511071689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The mid-term Majlis elections are to be held on 15 December in towns without deputies, and elections for Islamic councils will also be held for 3 months starting early next year [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1990].

Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri stated this during an interview with our correspondent yesterday afternoon at the end of his trip to Gilan Province. Regarding the law of parties, he said: With the formation of the Article 10 Committee on the formation of parties, this law is being implemented. There are no problems so far as this is concerned.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0311185589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 3 Nov 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili at Tehran University on 3 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Arrogance means conceit. When an individual, a group, or a government considers itself to be above everyone else, to be the elite, hence regarding everyone else as inferior, then it assumes an air of self-righteousness and considers all wealth and human beings its own property.

If you see the United States claiming to own the world's oil, the world's wealth, the world's resources, and everything else—and says so unaffectedly, without showing any shame or guilt; in fact, it seems to be proud of it—that is arrogance. It means that it considers itself to be of a special rank, and others are inferior and subordinate. Therefore, it says: Give us the world's oil, and in return we will supply you with powdered milk for your children whenever they need it, or if anyone of you needs clothing, we will donate our second-hand clothes to you; wear them. This is the ideology of arrogance. [passage omitted]

Recently they decided somewhere in the world that the United States has the right to abduct anyone they consider their enemy, to kill him, to kidnap him. This kind of rhetoric is shameful. If a person possesses a shred of decency, he will realize that even though someone may perpetrate such acts in practice, actually pronouncing them is a disgrace. A country in the world delivers such remarks so vociferously, and yet seems to be proud of it! An instance of this was the issue of their downing of the Iranian Airbus. They killed women, men, young, old, sick, and healthy, military, and civilian, and then they said: Yes, this is what we are. If you have the courage to pursue this, you will be met with exactly the same fate. We were not the only ones who became entangled in this ideology of the arrogance. However, we scream when in pain, while others do not have permission to scream—in North America, Europe, Africa or elsewhere. If a country wishes to assert its own identity, it is prevented from doing so. Yet, they claim to be advocates of human rights. Amid all these nations, in the sky or on earth, there is only one nation which took a firm stand vis-a-vis the global arrogance, and slapped the arrogance so hard that its eyes popped out. [crowd chants "Death to America, death to Israel"]

Ten years ago, in that very den of espionage, the arrogance was busy wreaking mischief, when our committed, devoted youths, the students following the imam's line, came and—I will not repeat this—brought such calamity on the global arrogance, and made a mockery of them for the first time in the world, and totally deranged their system. This is one of the proud achievements of the Islamic revolution. [crowd chants "Death to America, death to Israel, death to Britain"]

There are a few points which I have deduced from my remarks. First, perhaps we have not yet learned all about the global arrogance from a scientific point—not in the way we should know them and introduce them to the world. We do not yet have a scientific, comprehensive, profound, and correct knowledge of them. Much work has been done to this end, but more work still needs to be done. This is not confined to military confrontation, to confronting an economic force. It is a literary, cultural, and [word indistinct] confrontation. They have a very spacious field.

It is necessary for all the centers of science, the literary, the intellectuals, the professors, the scientists, the students, and those present at the sacred Shiite seminaries—who should have heeded these issues, in accordance with the imam's instructions—to review them in historical and scientific terms, to take the lid off their ignominy. I agree that much has already been said, but

there is still room for more scientific activity to be carried out in this connection.

My second point is that, sometimes one comes across certain matters in articles, speeches, or resolutions which reveal that the global arrogance underestimates this cursed United States [as heard]. There are some who in hindsight refer to the confrontations the Islamic Republic of Iran has had with the United States, and say that it would have been better if this or that was done, and so on. This is a naive way of thinking. The issue has not been dealt with profoundly. These difficulties which we have hitherto faced do not connote malpractice, but the nature of the works. If those activities were not carried out, those blows were not delivered, those disputes had not occurred, and those works were not done, then those situations would have been a hundred times worse.

The activities which have hitherto been implemented, if one judges them fairly, one notices that every one of them—I do not claim that there were not the smallest mistakes—in general, were very significant acts in their own right. For instance, the capture of the den of spies. The capture of the den of spies was of no little consequence in strengthening our revolution, in making the United States despondent and humiliated. Therefore, we feel that we should—maybe not this year, but in the coming years—keep this pride alive through staging marches, chanting slogans—the same way we kept alive the principle issues and tenets of Islam in the course of history, and benefited from them. These are the highly significant achievements of the revolution.

We are dutybound to carry out our obligations on days such as tomorrow [anniversary of seizure of the U.S. Embassy] by performing ceremonies, encouraging and praising those who made Iran so proud on that day, in opening the eyes of those who perhaps unintentionally think that it would have been better if we had acted differently, and so on. We must carry out our obligations.

I feel obliged to express my gratitude to the Majlis, and those dear brothers, for their resistance vis-a-vis this disgrace and ignominy of the United States. I have not heard. I do not know whether there has been any other country in the world, a majlis, a conference, an individual, a remark to question such behavior. Are they not ashamed? I do not know whether someone else says anything or not, but we are proud that this Majlis—which according to his eminence the imam, is justly in control of everything—carried out such a very worthy, timely, and appropriate task, which is a sign of their vivacity and vigilance. While thanking our dear brothers, I also want to bring it to their attention that those people who voted for them will not be content with any less than that. This is what the people expect of the Majlis. They should support the Majlis and the honorable deputies. They should praise them, bow to them or whatever. They, for their part, should in such special circumstances perform their duties to the best of their ability. [crowd chants "Our army is the army of God, we are the children of Ruhollah"]

Now here is another reminder: the summation of my remarks. Though it may be clear to everybody else, I agree with you that we must not pay the slightest attention to the promises, cajolery, coaxing, laughter, and extended hand by the United States—I stress that we should do so against the United States, specifically the United States since at present the global arrogance is crystalized there. We must pay no attention to any such gestures because that is the most unpleasant poison.

If we imagine that they have shelved their and so they are now humane, then is this reasonable? [sentence as heard] Can arrogance become humane? Arrogance must die. One cannot say that it is a poisonous snake but it does not bite. That is not so. One must crush the head of the poisonous snake with a rock so that it can no longer bite.

The path chosen by our honorable officials, our dear nation, our students, our seminaries, our citizens and our strugglers, in which they have not shown a happy face to the global arrogance, is the path of religious duty as well as religious obligation. We must continue that path as long as we live. [passage omitted]

One must not deny, everyone knows, that at present we have numerous tangible problems in our country. As we have seen and felt, our dear government has done all in its power, far beyond its capacity, to solve these problems. It would be pointless to expect these efforts to bear fruit overnight; it takes time.

In my meetings with a number of our brother officials, our dear president in particular, my impression was one of hope for the future, with God's blessing. [passage omitted] However, owing to the volume of difficulties, it would take great effort and sacrifice. Because we do not have officials' responsibilities, we should not sit idle and say that it is the officials who accepted those responsibilities, so they should solve the problems in any manner.

Indifference and shirking one's responsibilities are unfair and contrary to one's conscience, particularly if certain persons take advantage of the situation—when they see that their brothers, their fellow combatants, are working round the clock, trying to solve each problem—to make a bit of money, they act improperly. [passage omitted] It is our duty to act responsibly and to do our best to help solve the problems; not create obstacles, or create one problem before another is solved.

Another issue, I wish to talk about is the al-Ta'if session. What happened at the session? They all gathered there and told the Lebanese: You have been through many wars, had many martyrs, suffered destruction and misery. All that counts for nothing. Maronites are Maronites, the president is a Maronite, the tribes are tribes. The old situation was very good. The majority of the Muslims had menial jobs; the Maronite minority was in charge; the wealth was in their hands. That is the nature

of arrogance. As soon as they said that, everybody said: excellent, very good. The Security Council accepted it; the East and the West said they accepted it; the United States said: It is very good. If members of those movements do not accept such a good deed, what do they want from the people? They have brought forward a Maronite and made him president. They have committed a very bad deed.

For our own part we curse the al-Ta'if session, those who planned it, those who nurtured the idea, those who want to implement the idea, those who endorse it. We condemn all of them. [crowd chants] That is open treason against Islam and the Islamic revolution. As noble, revolutionary people have banished the idea, we hope that they remain adamant in their struggle, God willing.

About what happened in Turkey and France: To prevent the influence of the Islamic revolution, they are putting pressure on little girls about the fact that they wear the chador [Islamic dress]. Those countries, with their claims and shameful deeds, are condemned by the Muslim, revolutionary people of Iran. We declare our support for those who stand up to these bullyings and unfair actions. [passage omitted]

Editorial Discusses Need for Differing Views

NC0311174389 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Oct 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Today More Than Yesterday"]

[Text] We who have a "Unity Week" and call on the various factions, religions, and nations of the world to unite, should—more than anyone else—be united in action.

Recently, we have sometimes seen persons here and there who say and write things, but who omit the most important principle in what they say and write. It seems that these people also need a week called Unity Week.

Of course, such utterances and writings are few, but even too few is sometimes too much. Most people and officials have, according to God's wishes, joined hands and tried in a united and sincere way to solve gradually social problems and difficulties. However, there are also a few who, in the name of a faction, or others who, under the veil of another faction, have turned the so-called process of "criticism" into a process of "vengeance" and crossed the line between these two.

Nothing solves problems today so well as unity and harmony. Criticism, deliberations, and studies are necessary. A society thrives in an atmosphere of criticism as a fish thrives in water. Do some of us, however, after 10 years of experience, consider criticism to be synonymous to heated, quarrelsome, and slanderous words? It seems as though a language, expression, and, generally speaking, a special culture for criticism, does not exist!

One person asks another: Are you not the same person who, when the imam was alive, considered each person who expressed his view and who held a view opposing the canonical ruler and said that one should be merely obedient? Why are you now expressing your opinions and finding fault? The other answers: Are you not the same person who, when the imam was alive, maintained that views should be expressed and saw a fundamental difference between this and opposing the canonical ruler? Why are you now paying lip service to the need for obedience and consider any expression of view and opinion to be against Islam, God, the prophet, and the canonical ruler?

One person wants to criticize foreign policy. Amid all the criticism, fraternal and friendly words are replaced by quarrelsome and slanderous words; and the words that are said imply that it is a matter of treason or dependence on or rejection of principles and that world arrogance calls up that person every night and gives him guidelines on which to act!

Another person wants to defend foreign policy. He suddenly replaces the natural, logical, and affectionate tone with a harsh approach. Harsh words are said or harsh implications are made, and suddenly accusations fly. The outcome of this defense is the same as the outcome of the attack and makes one think it is a matter of plots, ploys, and dependence on the monafeqin [hypocrites, referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and on the arrogant powers, and that every night the CIA or Mosad call that person up and tell him that he is doing a good job!

We do not want to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude and to lecture anyone! If we relate, however, what we have seen and experienced and do our duty, what sort of reaction will we have to face? Should we do anything other than state our sincere feelings on the negative consequences of certain actions, as a mere listener or reader would?

Pakistan

Chinese Leaders, Ershad Congratulate Bhutto

BK0311153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The Chinese president, Yang Shangkun, has congratulated Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on her historic success in winning the confidence of the National Assembly. In a statement, he expressed the hope that under her distinguished leadership Pakistan will prosper and the close relations between the two countries will be strengthened.

The Chinese premier, Li Peng, also sent a similar message congratulating Ms Benazir Bhutto. He said he is looking forward to meeting her when he arrives in Islamabad on the 14th of this month.

Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad also congratulated the prime minister on her success in winning the vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

Gorbachev Sends Congratulations

BK0611090089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Soviet President Gorbachev has congratulated Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on her winning the vote of confidence in the National Assembly. The Soviet ambassador in Pakistan conveyed this message to the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday.

Bhutto Warns Opposition on 'Vindictive Actions'

BK0511155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Speaking at a reception in Lahore today, the prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] came into power to ensure the supremacy of the Constitution and to protect the rights of the people. It would like to sit in the opposition but will not indulge in buying the loyalties of elected members [of assemblies]. She said it is unfortunate that during the past 11 months, several conspiracies were plotted against her democratic government. This is the first time that a provincial government plotted to destabilize the federal government.

Benazir Bhutto voiced her regrets that the opposition tried to buy the loyalties of elected members. These members, however, rejected attractive offers and decided to vote according to their consciences. The prime minister said: I salute all elected members, especially Rais Shabbir, Ghulam Ahmad Maneka, and Makhdoom Anwar Alam.

The prime minister expressed grave concern over the vindictive actions taken by the Punjab government against those elected members who did not support the no-confidence motion. She said these members should not be punished merely because they demonstrated their lofty feelings for and association with democracy and democratic institutions.

Benazir Bhutto said: We are carefully reviewing the situation created after the defeat of the Islamic Democratic Alliance in connection with the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly. We will see to it that elected representatives are provided full protection. She said that the federal government will not tolerate chaos and disorder by the provincial government.

The prime minister said: We want national harmony and understanding for the promotion of the democratic process, but the other side should also demonstrate a similar spirit. She thanked the nation for having confidence in her government and said the no-confidence motion against her government failed because it was a conspiracy against the people and the people's representatives defeated it.

Benazir Bhutto said that the People's Program [socioeconomic welfare program of the PPP government] has been implemented to solve the people's problems, but unfortunately, obstacles have been put in its path.

Talking to newsmen before her departure for Islamabad, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said: We have started establishing contacts with some factions of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD] under a policy of national reconciliation. We not only want to establish contacts with the MRD, but also to broaden the base. She expressed the hope that moderate elements of the Islamic Democratic Alliance will realize what is good for the country.

Willing To End Tension

BK0411152589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that she is always ready to take any steps that would end bitterness and tension in national politics. Talking informally with newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, she said the government never harbored any malice toward the opposition. She hoped that the opposition feels the same way.

When asked about a possibility of conciliation between the Pakistan People's Party and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] in the future, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that our door is always open for consultations with all political parties, including the MQM.

MQM Alleges PPP 'Harassment Campaign'

BK0511114089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Karachi, Nov 5 (AFP)—The ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has launched a harassment campaign against members of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), its former ally, a letter from the MQM to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan alleges.

The letter, published Sunday, claims the PPP unleashed "an official campaign of intimidation and harassment" against MQM workers after the MQM broke a 10-month-old alliance with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and supported the opposition's no-confidence motion.

The motion, tabled by the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) which included 14 MQM deputies mainly from the Sind capital of Karachi and its second city Hyderabad, was defeated by 12 votes on Wednesday in the 237-member house.

The letter said MQM workers had been the "target of atrocities and subjected to harrassment" since the move failed. At least eight MQM workers were jailed following clashed with PPP supporters in Karachi and Hyderabad last week, MQM Secretary Badar Iqbal said.

But a provincial government spokesman said the charges in the letter were "baseless," adding that the government had been restrained in dealing with the protesters. However, he warned that the government would not hesitate to take action against "those who acted against the interests of the people of Sind."

Munawar Wassan, adviser to Sind's chief minister, also counter-charged the MQM of "preparing plans for large-scale troubles" in Sind. In a statement released Saturday he said the MQM was "plotting to assassinate" PPP leaders.

Official sources here said the government plans a campaign to curb lawlessness and violence in Sind. A three-pronged strategy has been devised to tighten the administration, accelerate economic development and make the ruling PPP politically more effective.

MQM Leader Plans No Confrontation

BK0611081489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Altaf Hussain, the chief of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, has said that they will work consistently to strengthen democracy. Addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday, he said they had only annulled the Karachi agreement [with the Pakistan People's Party] but have not announced any confrontation with the provincial government or the Pakistan People's Party. He expressed the hope that the ruling party's response will also be positive.

40 Kasur Lawyers Announce Plan To Join PPP

BK0511135689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] A 40-member delegation of the district bar association, Kasur, called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Lahore this afternoon. The lawyers formally announced to join the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in view of the role being played by it in strengthening the democratic process in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister recounted the nefarious efforts of the antidemocratic forces to destabilize the process of democracy since assumption of power by the PPP and said that her party was a symbol of unity and integrity of the federating units of the country.

Islamic Democratic Alliance Wins Punjab Election

BK0511083289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] According to the provisional results of the by-election to Punjab Assembly's constituency No PP-180, Khanewal-7, Arshad Mitla of the Islamic Democratic Alliance has been elected with over 36,600 votes. His nearest rival, Khalid Iqbal Randhawa of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], received 34,234 votes. The seat had become vacant in September following the death of Mohammad Aslam Randhawa, a PPP member of the provincial assembly.

Sri Lanka

All Party Conference Reports Progress of Talks

BK0311122789 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The All Party Conference [APC] secretariat says that it was agreed to establish an interim administration which would include all parties. Prior to such a step it was also agreed to formulate an agreed program of work and decide on a common approach to the resolution of urgent problems faced by the country. A news release issued by the APC secretariat states that several inquiries have been directed with regard to the consensus arrived in respect of three issues. They are the presidential system, the formation of a national provisional interim administration, and the program of work of the APC.

With regard to the presidential system, there were three proposals—to retain it in its present form, to abolish it altogether, or to restructure it—at the consultations held on 6 October 1989 with the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] which represented the five parties in parliament. It was agreed that a referendum be held once peace and normalcy is restored to decide on the acceptability of the presidential system.

The APC will seek a consensus on the means of resolving the urgent problems facing the country for the restoration of peace. It seeks agreement on a program of work for an interim administration and to constitute it by including all parties concerned with a specified time frame. These conclusions received the concurrence of the APC on 12 October.

Inquiries have also been made about the progress of the program of work of the APC. The APC is a vital forum where all parties and groups seek to replace conflict with consensus through compromise. The unresolved crucial national issues in the society have brought about the present situation.

Official Release on Antisubversive Operations

BK0511092289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0745 GMT 5 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Three subversives were killed and a large quantity of arms, including rifles and repeater shotguns seized by security forces in a raid on a subversive hideout at Alawwa.

An official release issued today states police raided the hideout on information provided by the public. There had been an exchange of fire between the police and

subversives and in the ensuing shoot out three subversives were killed. The police also recovered rifles, repeater shotguns, ammunition, cartridges and sets of army uniforms from the hideout.

The official release further states that one subversive who attempted to escape at Kotalindagama was shot dead.

The release also states that during search operations conducted by security forces in Badulla, 37 suspected subversives were arrested along with muzzle loading guns, swords, and subversive literature.

In the Colombo District's Avariyawatte area, 20 suspected subversives were taken in for questioning and 16 more were rounded up in the Sabaragamuwa Province's Kegalle area.

At Wagolla also in Kegalle, security forces recovered from a subversives safehouse, sets of army and police uniforms, police caps and boots, ammunition, explosives, swords and 338 national identity cards.

At Hakmana in Matara, a police mobile patrol recovered a landmine, the official release states.

'Subversives' Kill 9 in Kurunegala District

BK0511082689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0742 GMT 5 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—A policeman and five of his family members were wiped out by suspected subversives at Kurunegala in Sri Lanka's Northwestern Province, Friday [3 November].

According to a government communique issued today, the victims who were shot and hacked to death were constable W.M.U. Wannikayake attached to the Galgamuwa police, his father W.M.K. Punchi Banda, mother S.M. Bandara Manike, brothers W.M.M. Wanninayake and W.M.K. Wanninayake, and sister Kumari Wanninayake.

At Pambadeniya also in the Kurunegala District a teacher, farmer, and a laborer were shot dead by subversives.

In a separate incident in the North Central Province district of Polonnaruwa, subversives shot and killed H.M. Herath Banda, father of Upali Herath of the Sri Lanka Navy.

74 Killed in 'Fierce Gunbattles' in East

BK0511142289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (AFP)—At least 74 people, including 68 Tamil militants, were killed in fierce gunbattles Sunday in Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic eastern region, local officials and Tamil sources said.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), pounded two camps of rival militants with rockets, mortars and machinegun fire in simultaneous pre-dawn attacks, officials said.

Tigers killed at least 62 members of rival groups, while losing six of their own men. Five Muslim men and a Tamil boy were also killed in the fighting, Tamil sources said by telephone.

Tamil Groups Clash in Ampara; Casualties Noted

BK0611095489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0855 GMT 6 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne flew out to the troubled Eastern Province district of Ampara this morning accompanied by top security officials to review the security situation following yesterday's clashes between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] which according to official reports left 38 dead, 140 missing, and four wounded. The reports stated that 250 militants believed to be of the LTTE had attacked two EPRLF and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] bases at Tirukkovil early Sunday. Twenty-two EPRLF and TELO members were killed in the fighting and four wounded. About 140 members of the Citizens Volunteer Force [CVF] and the EPRLF were reported missing. They were believed to have surrendered or been captured. Sixteen LTTE cadres were also reported killed in the heavy fighting and over 150 weapons were also removed by the attackers.

The EPRLF and TELO bases came under rocket and mortar attack early yesterday and the fighting continued for several hours. But at night the guns had gone silent.

Meanwhile, EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] leader V. Balakumar said at a press conference in Colombo this morning that the EPRLF had asked EROS to quit Ampara, but this was being ignored. EROS with 13 members is the third largest party represented in Parliament.

The situation in the Ampara District was reported as being quiet today.

Meanwhile, a government communique issued today states that the TELO and EPRLF bases were attacked by approximately 250 persons suspected to be LTTE cadres. 22 EPRLF and TELO members were killed and 4 injured. Approximately 140 persons of the CVF and the EPRLF with personal weapons are missing. They are believed to have surrendered or been captured, the communique states. 16 attackers believe to be LTTE are reported to have been killed in the exchange of fire.

The attackers had also removed one hundred GK rifles, 6 RPG's, 6 zinc mortars, 1 LMG [light machinegun], 30 T-845 rifles, 14 pistols and 14 carbine machineguns.